

# ROOTED AND RESILIENT

EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER

2025



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# Our Mission

The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) seeks to promote justice and build a community that is more secure, productive, healthy, and hopeful by providing free legal services, policy advocacy, and legal training.



# Letter From EBCLC's Executive Director

***This year marks my 5th anniversary as EBCLC's Executive Director. It is incredibly humbling to reflect on what we have accomplished during this time.***

Over the last 5 years, EBCLC has provided more than 20,000 legal services, recovered over \$15 million on behalf of our clients, and fielded over 100,000 calls from community members seeking help. We also released our Women of Color-Centered Policy Platform to address the stubborn disparities we see among our largest demographic of clients, Black and Latinx women, and leveraged our public messaging and clinical training to underscore the value of women of color to community well-being. EBCLC passed important client-informed policies that have impacted millions of people in California and across the country, including policies that kept people housed, increased economic mobility, and disrupted the school-to-prison pipeline. As the federal government retracts resources, it is critical for us to continue to push state and local policies to protect our communities.

EBCLC also leaned into our privilege and responsibility as a legal institution by training over 500 students to be the next generation of racial justice lawyers and social workers. Our curriculum reflected the evolving external conditions that every lawyer needs to understand and navigate to be an effective advocate, including the COVID-19 crisis, challenges to our First Amendment rights, and the widening racial and gender wealth gap. Our students performed mighty work within our clinical programs and showed up with ferocious curiosity and drive. This class of lawyers enters the legal profession at a time when it needs righteous risk-taking and courage – qualities our students cultivate through our clinical program.

Our successes over the past five years build upon the 35+ year legacy of EBCLC. **We have proven time and time again to be an organization rooted in resilience.** Now, more than ever, legal strategies in the courtroom and in communities are imperative to fight back against the severe consequences of a system in which only the wealthy and powerful can access justice. This work is not easy, but we must fight for it because our clients and our communities are entitled to nothing less.

Thank you for being in community with us, and for your continued support of EBCLC.

With Gratitude,



Zoë Polk  
Executive Director





# About the East Bay Community Law Center

We envision a California where Black and Brown communities are positioned to realize thriving, healthy, and dignified lives by building towards three goals outlined in our Women of Color-Centered Policy Platform:

- **ELIMINATING THE RACIAL AND GENDER WEALTH GAP;**
- **PROTECTING THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF FAMILIES; AND**
- **EXPANDING THE PUBLIC SOCIAL SAFETY NET.**

We center the experiences of women of color, our largest client demographic, and solve for the persistent inequities they face because we believe this approach will bolster the well-being and resilience of all communities.

Through a combination of high-volume legal services, client-informed policy, and legal training for the next generation of racial justice lawyers, EBCLC's work has transformative statewide and nationwide impact.

# EBCLC's Programs

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

provides legal assistance to clients at risk of poor health outcomes due to economic insecurity and debt, discrimination, and/or unsafe housing conditions through medical-legal partnerships with local healthcare providers and community-based legal clinics.

## HOUSING

is a high-volume, fast-paced litigation practice designed to protect and promote safe, healthy, and affordable housing for low-income tenants through eviction defense services and legal support for unhoused communities.

“

*I am so thankful for all the help I got from this organization, especially from [Staff Attorney] Miguel Soto. He was amazing and professional in every way possible. He provided so much important information on how to go about dealing with my case. I couldn't have done it without his help”*

- EBCLC Client

”





## IMMIGRATION

provides a full range of legal services to immigrants and their families on issues related to humanitarian options, family-based options, deportation defense, and focuses on serving youth through its ‘kindergarten-to-college’ immigration partnerships with local schools and higher education institutions.

## EDUCATION DEFENSE AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH (EDJY)

disrupts the school-to-prison nexus by working to get police off school campuses, closing youth jails, and providing representation to youth ensnared between the juvenile legal and education systems.

## SOCIAL WORK

partners closely with EBCLC’s legal teams to provide clients with ongoing case management, crisis intervention, systems navigation, and holistic care in our EDJY, Immigration, and Housing programs.

# EBCLC by the Numbers

**44.9%**

of EBCLC's clients are women of color, representing our largest client base

**84.4%**

of EBCLC's clients are BIPOC

**93.8%**

of EBCLC's clients live below 50% of AMI



# Our Impact 2025

**\$4.8 MILLION**

recovered for our clients

**4,217**

clients served

**20,914**

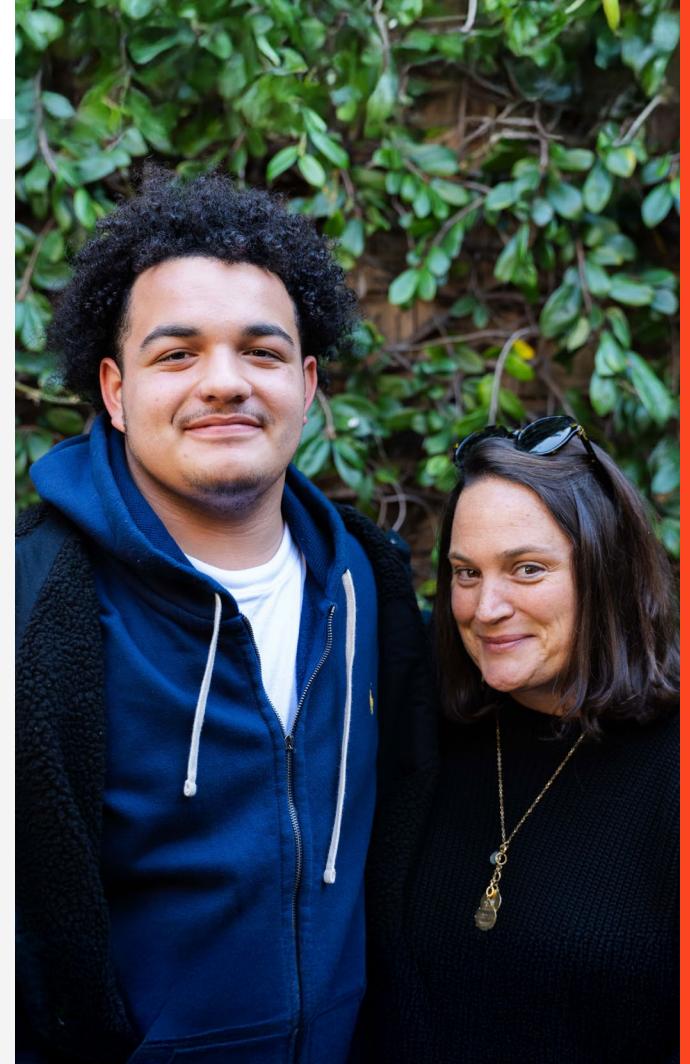
calls fielded from community  
members in need



# Direct Services Highlights

## EDJY CLIENT KAMRON

EBCLC first started working with Kamron when he was referred to our Education Defense and Justice for Youth (EDJY) Program by the Alameda County Public Defender's office for a juvenile court matter when he was 15 years old. Kamron and his mother had been unhoused for years and lacked access to resources to address several challenges they were facing as a family, including mental health issues, an unstable living environment, and barriers for Kamron to consistently access his education. These challenges led Kamron to be system-impacted as a child.



EDJY worked hard to build a strong relationship with Kamron and spent the past 2+ years addressing his overlapping legal and social needs by representing him in his juvenile court matters, advocating for his special education needs, and providing social work support. Through EDJY's services, Kamron was eventually able to get his probation dismissed, juvenile records sealed, and is now back on track with his education and receiving the support he needs to be successful at school. EDJY's social worker also worked closely with EBCLC's Housing program to reinstate the family's Section 8 voucher, which had been wrongly terminated years before, and supported them in securing permanent housing for Kamron and his mother last winter. For Kamron, **"the past 6 months have been the most stable months of my entire life."**

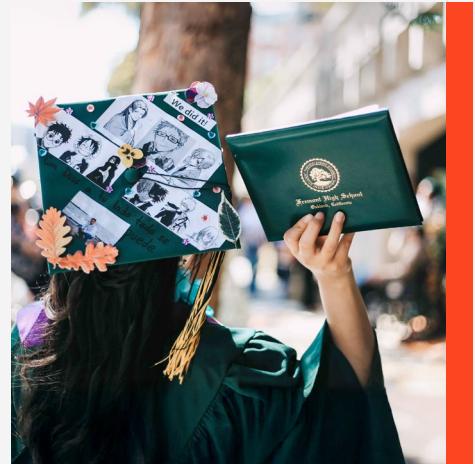
EDJY also supported Kamron's connection to Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY), a community- based partner that promotes restorative justice policies and practices. There, Kamron found a community that he could relate to and learn from. He now works with RJOY and supports its healing circles for at-risk youth in the Bay Area. "I've been through a lot - and I want other young people to see themselves in me."

*"I got blessed by working with my attorney and social worker at EBCLC. They always asked me what I wanted, asked what my goals were, and advocated for me. Their big thing is dedication and communication, so they reached out to me all the time. When things get hard, I rely on them as part of my community and support system. When you have a strong foundation, your building can't fall."*

Now 17 years old, Kamron is working towards graduating high school, going to college, and giving back to his community. **"By the grace of God, I am so thankful to be surrounded by so many positive people. I see now that I have my whole future ahead of me."** EBCLC is honored to be part of Kamron's incredible journey and growth.

## IMMIGRATION CHIRP CLIENTS “CHIRPIES/POLLITOS”

EBCLC represents youth through our participation in California’s key initiative, the Children’s Holistic Immigration Representation Project (CHIRP). Our CHIRP clients, affectionately referred to as “CHIRPIES/Pollitos” by our Immigration and Social Work Programs, receive immigration legal services and trauma-informed social work care from EBCLC to support their overall well-being and development. In June, several of our CHIRPIES/Pollitos graduated from high school, two of whom graduated at the top of their class and gave beautiful graduation speeches.



“At 15, living in Guatemala, my family made the difficult decision that I needed to migrate to the US so that I could continue my education. 4 years later, after a difficult transition, I was able to graduate from high school at the top of my class. During the time I have lived in the United States I have met people such as my Social Worker Carolina and Attorney Karla who are helping me with my immigration process. For me, graduating was a goal of my dreams and goals that I have for myself and my family, who only want the best for me.”

- EBCLC Immigration Client

## EBCLC BOARD MEMBER & CLIENT SANDRA JOHNSON

EBCLC’s Board Member and longtime client, Sandra Johnson, is now only one step away from receiving a gubernatorial pardon after the Board of Parole Hearings unanimously approved her pardon.

Sandra began working with EBCLC’s Clean Slate Program to expunge her criminal record over a decade ago. At the same time, she began organizing formerly incarcerated people with All of Us or None and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. She has prioritized helping others, making sure people inside prisons know she will be waiting for them once they get out. Sandra’s advocacy for formerly incarcerated people has been instrumental in passing Fair Chance laws both locally and statewide.



“This year, I appeared before the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Board of Parole Hearings, the final step to obtain a gubernatorial pardon. I have been moving towards this goal for over a decade and have been grateful to the many EBCLC attorneys that have helped me along the way. In my testimony to the Board of Parole, I spoke about my work in the community, including my board service at EBCLC. As a leader of this organization, it was important for me to apply for the pardon because I know it will inspire our formerly incarcerated clients and community members.”

-Sandra Johnson



# Client-Informed Advocacy Highlights

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

EBCLC was proud to work in coalition to support the passage of AB 1230, which strengthens pathways back to school for expelled students. EBCLC's EDJY Program helped co-draft the language for AB 1230 and provided vital ongoing technical assistance throughout the amendment process. EDJY also ensured that education advocates across the state were aware of the proposed legislation and had meaningful opportunities for feedback and engagement. In April, EBCLC's Brian Lewinstein Fellow Kaya McRuer provided powerful expert testimony in support of the bill to the Assembly's Education Committee, where the legislation passed unanimously.

In the 2023-24 school year, more than 4,000 California students were expelled from school, with significant over-representation of Black and Latinx students. AB 1230 ensures expelled students will receive clear and actionable support tailored to their needs so that they can receive meaningful individualized plans to help them return to school. This law also addresses prolonged exclusion from school, mandating earlier review of readmission decisions and preventing the denial of reentry to school due to financial or transportation barriers.

## PROTECTING TRANSGENDER & NONBINARY CALIFORNIANS

EBCLC's Health and Welfare Program was instrumental in advocating for the passage of AB 1084 and SB 56, two key bills that will help safeguard the rights of transgender and nonbinary Californians. Our Health and Welfare Program provided client stories, legal expertise, and community outreach to build support for these laws – key value adds as a community-based legal organization. AB 1084 streamlines and expedites the process for name and gender marker changes and, starting July 1, 2026, will remove the ability for third parties to file objections in adult name changes tied to gender identity. SB 56 protects the privacy and safety of transgender and nonbinary Californians by requiring courts to make records pertaining to a name or gender marker change confidential.

EBCLC runs one of California's only ongoing Name and Gender Change Workshops (NGCW), which affirms transgender clients' identities in official documents. NGCW has helped over 500 individuals since its founding in 2016, and this valuable experience has informed EBCLC's ongoing commitment to ensuring that life-saving measures like AB 1084 and SB 56 are implemented in California.





## PROVIDING AN ADVOCACY BLUEPRINT TO STRENGTHEN TENANT PROTECTIONS

EBCLC released our report, *Sheltered in Place: The Community-Centered Advocacy Behind America's Strongest Eviction Moratorium*, which highlights our multi-prong and community-based advocacy model that helped secure the longest and strongest eviction moratorium in the country during the COVID-19 crisis.

EBCLC's Housing Program serves approximately 1,100 clients each year, providing holistic legal services in a fast-paced litigation environment. This high-volume legal work positioned us to quickly assess the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on tenants and to push for an eviction moratorium that could – and did – protect thousands of tenants.

Our report details how EBCLC's local actions directly influenced the creation of a nationwide eviction moratorium and offers critical recommendations for policymakers, health advocates, and the housing justice community to strengthen the health and safety of tenants. The release of our report was also commemorated by a panel discussion with local housing experts at EBCLC's community-based office.

**“The East Bay Community Law Center believes that your race and gender should not determine whether you are treated fairly in our legal system. We aim to level the playing field for our clients.”**

EBCLC Executive Director Zoë Polk,



# Clinical Program

EBCLC's Clinical Education Program trains over 80 law students and Masters of Social Work students each year. The need to develop strong racial justice attorneys and social workers is more critical now than ever before as we face a political moment in which both our legal system and safety net policies are under attack. Our students take their learnings from EBCLC and apply them to their current and future work, increasing our ability to scale out our impact in our ongoing fight for justice.



**“EBCLC’s holistic approach has demonstrated what one mode of collaboration can look like: immigration attorneys and social workers working side-by-side. A partnership like that positions EBCLC to see a client as more than a legal problem, but a full human being with various needs.”**

- EBCLC clinical law student, Summer 2025

**“EBCLC’s Women of Color platform and philosophy helped train me to form more creative legal arguments and operate as a more approachable and trustworthy advocate for everybody.”**

- EBCLC clinical law student, Spring 2025



**“My work at EBCLC was the first exposure I had to social work and working one-on-one with clients. I learned a lot about the field and the community I was serving. I became aware of how valuable it is to be able to connect with clients and give them the resources they need. Being at EBCLC helped me become more confident as a social worker and stepping into that role.”**

- EBCLC MSW student, Spring 2025

# Our Staff



**79% 75% 55% 50% 7%**

are women

identify as Black  
Indigenous or  
Person of Color

identify as a  
Women of Color

use multiple  
languages in  
their work

are transgender,  
genderqueer or  
nonbinary

# Board of Directors

**Easha Anand** - *Secretary*

**Michelle W. Anderson**

**Abhay Aneja**

**Luke Apfeld**

**Marian Avila Breach** - *Student Board Member*

**Stephanie Daniels**

**Jocelyn Gomez**

**Divya Gopal**

**E. Venessa Henlon**

**Luan Huynh**

**Sandra Johnson**

**Amanda Karl** - *Pro Bono Chair*

**Michael Kwun**

**Monique Liburd** - *Vice-Chair*

**Daven Lowhurst**

**Michael Ng** - *Chair Emeritus*

**Isaiah Paik** - *Student Board Member*

**Sneh Rao**

**Michelle Rodriguez**

**Michael Santos**

**Maureen Sheehy** - *Treasurer*

**Tiffany Thomas** - *Chair*

**Alyssa Young** - *Student Board Member*



# Board Demographics

**52%**

IDENTIFY AS  
WOMEN OF COLOR

**81%**

IDENTIFY AS  
BLACK INDIGENOUS  
AND PERSON OF COLOR

**67%**

IDENTIFY  
AS WOMEN

**57%**

EBCLC  
ALUMNI

**19%**

IDENTIFY  
AS LGBTQIA+

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

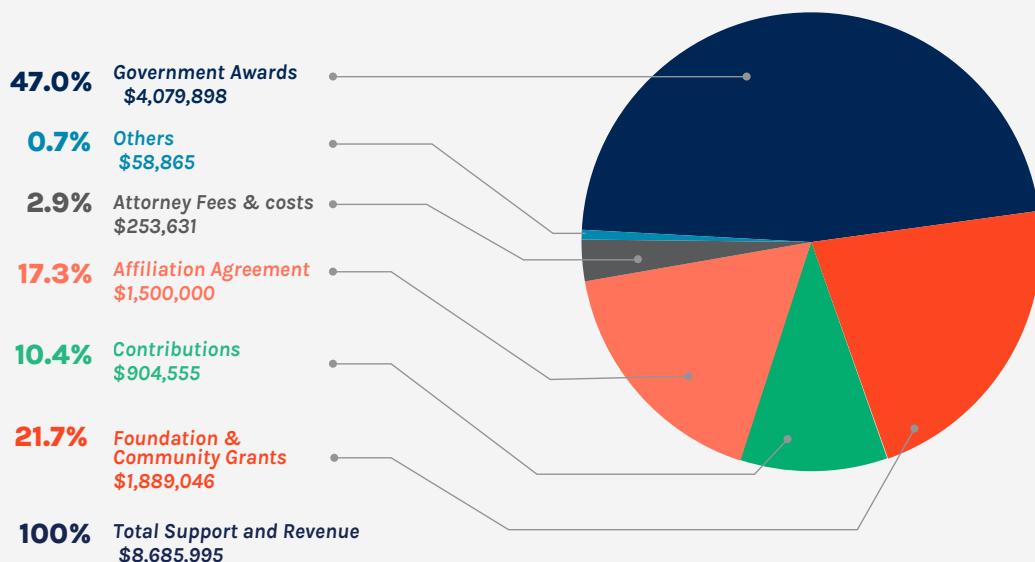
Updated: 12.1.2025

ASSETS	FY2024	FY2025
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,835,404	2,117,544
Cash held in trust	348,708	348,708
Investments	2,104,595	2,290,520
Grants, pledges & accounts receivable	2,285,487	2,364,834
Prepaid expenses	113,472	80,339
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,687,666</b>	<b>7,197,846</b>
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>		
Grants and pledges receivable, net	1,848,415	1,247,461
Property and equipment, net	1,372,949	1,328,924
Deposits	39,568	39,382
Right of use assets	726,563	557,269
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>3,987,495</b>	<b>3,173,036</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,675,161</b>	<b>10,370,882</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	418,507	325,767
Accrued vacation	601,150	452,965
Deferred revenue	399,784	1,566,504
Client trust accounts	348,708	345,076
Current portion of lease liability	205,889	212,066
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,974,038</b>	<b>2,902,378</b>
Lease Liability, less current portion	586,095	403,721
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,560,133</b>	<b>3,306,099</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	4,108,018	3,690,665
With donor restrictions	4,007,010	3,374,118
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>8,115,028</b>	<b>7,064,783</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>10,675,161</b>	<b>10,370,882</b>



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITES

SUPPORT & REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Government awards	4,079,898	-	4,079,898	3,648,503
Foundation and community grants	360,000	1,529,046	1,889,046	1,855,294
Contributions	765,623	138,932	904,555	549,302
In-kind Services	-	-	-	102,417
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>5,205,521</b>	<b>1,667,978</b>	<b>6,873,499</b>	<b>6,155,516</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Affiliation Agreement	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	1,152,649
Attorney fees and costs	253,631	-	253,631	6,854
Investment activity, net	195,146	-	195,146	201,434
Other	58,865	-	58,865	116,586
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,007,642</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,007,642</b>	<b>1,477,523</b>
Support provided by expiring time and purpose restrictions	2,300,870	(2,300,870)	-	-
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>9,514,033</b>	<b>(632,892)</b>	<b>8,881,141</b>	<b>7,633,039</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program	7,862,983	-	7,862,983	8,159,264
Management and General	1,540,262	-	1,540,262	1,785,521
Fundraising	528,141	-	528,141	531,938
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,931,386</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,931,386</b>	<b>10,476,723</b>
Change in Net Assets	(417,353)	(632,892)	(1,050,245)	(2,843,684)
Net Assets, beginning of year	4,108,018	4,007,010	8,115,028	10,958,712
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>3,690,665</b>	<b>3,374,118</b>	<b>7,064,783</b>	<b>8,115,028</b>
			(1,162,659)	
<b>ANNUAL REVENUE BREAKDOWN</b>				



# Our Supporters

Our accomplishments are made possible because of your support. We extend appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, law firms, and businesses who contributed to EBCLC between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

## LEADERSHIP: \$50,000 AND ABOVE

Bay Area Community Services (BACS)  
California Wellness Foundation  
Crankstart  
Economic Justice Center  
Equal Justice America  
Gilead Foundation  
Henry L. Hecht  
Kazan McClain Partners' Foundation  
Kresge Foundation

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
San Francisco Foundation  
Stupski Foundation  
Sunlight Giving  
The California Endowment  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund  
Walter S. Johnson Foundation  
Y & H Soda Foundation  
Zellerbach Family Foundation

## CHAMPIONS: \$25,000-\$49,999

Firedoll Foundation  
Outten & Golden LLP  
Van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation

## ADVOCATES: \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Donors  
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation  
Betty Recinos  
Bigglesworth Family Foundation  
Brian Lewinstein Foundation  
Caroline D. Avery

Jennifer and David Anderson  
Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
Oakland Athletics Community Fund  
Quinn Delaney & Wayne Jordan  
Tiffany R. Thomas

## FRIENDS: \$1,000-9,999

Akonadi Foundation  
Alexander M.R. Lyon  
Allison Butler and Richard Peers  
Andrew Harris Wolff  
Anonymous Donors

Arthur and Charlotte Zitrin Foundation  
Bernhard Alfred M. Maassen  
Broderick Brown  
Causeway Capital Management LLC  
Christian Claiborn



## FRIENDS: \$1,000-9,999 CONTINUE

Christin and Corey Hill  
Claudia A. Baldwin  
Cole H. Taylor  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Dan Purcell and Heather Hanly  
Dandapani Sivakumar  
Daven and Karen Lowhurst  
David A. Rosenfeld and Shirley Woo  
David Bixby  
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David Mundstock  
D'Lonra Ellis  
Dona Tomas LLC  
Donna Thomas  
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Emily Bein  
Eric Howard Gibbs Gibbs Law Group  
Erin and Phuoc Le  
Gabe Podesta  
Gap, Inc Employee Matching Program  
Geraldine M. Alexis  
Hon. Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers and Matt Rogers  
Hugo D. Cabrera and Ramya Srinivasan  
J.B Berland Fundation  
Jeanine Feriancek  
Jeanine Henry  
Jeffrey Selbin and Laurel Fletcher  
Jim and Elena Meehan  
Jim Chanin and Rachel Richman  
Joan and David Hollinger  
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Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP  
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Lisa Walker  
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Marlene Walters  
Mary Catton Newman  
Maureen Sheehy and Steve Catton  
Max Berger  
Michael and Elisa Schenkman  
Michael Eugene Davis  
Michael Loeb  
Michael S. Kwun and Sigrid Anderson-Kwun  
Michelle Wilde Anderson and Sade Borghei  
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Terri Edersheim and Robert Meyer  
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Chicago Community Foundation  
The Bowser Matthews Family Fund  
The George J. & Theresa L. Cotsirilos  
Merced Foundation  
The Quiet Fund  
Tim Stroshane and Jan Ambrosini  
Victoria Plaut and Robert Bartlett  
Walter Brown  
Wellington Jackson  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation  
Yaroslav Sochynsky  
Zahavah Levine and Jeff Meyer  
Zelle LLP

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