

In 2020, The Zachary Project supported our people secure safe housing after prison release, prevent evictions, purchase food and basic needs during Covid-induced crises, access mental health care resources, and more.

January 26, 2021

Dear Community Keepers of the Zachary Project,

First, we hope that you and loved ones are doing as well as possible given our current conditions. It has been a tumultuous year, full of transitions, loss, and new ways of being and connecting. The theme and significance of fighting for our lives is as relevant than ever, if not more explicit, more tenuous, and incredibly collective. This year, we have had to live up to our potential. We have had to reflect on missed opportunities and seized moments; we have had to stay grounded in our needs and conditions; we have had to boldly face our own potential.

This year, you helped us at Critical Resistance meet our potential and face the needs of our community with creative, generous readiness. The Zachary Project helped people avert crisis – de-escalating near disasters in disastrous times. THANK YOU for building this resource with us.

We write today to share an overarching view of 2020 and projections for 2021. 2020 was The Zachary Project's most impactful year yet—a sign of hardship, but also a marker of growth in capacity, resilience and strength.

In 2020:

- Thirteen people received support ranging from \$300-500.
- We distributed \$6,300.
- We fundraised/ YOU gifted \$12,241.
 - o 75 Donors, total: Contributions came from loved ones, friends, people who have accessed the fund in previous years, as well as a return gift from a 2020 recipient.
- We developed financial management protocols around balancing payouts and fundraising.
- We developed some visual outreach materials (above, and pages 5-6).
- Using the framing of "Mutual Aid Monday," we ran our first public month-long social media fundraiser.
- Our comrades at [AK Press ran a rad tshirt benefit sale](#), featuring a t-shirt we think Zachary would have gotten down with (pictured, right). ☺



In 2021:

- We have \$11,265 in the Fund at the start of the year.
- We have 9 monthly sustainers, contributing a total of \$290 a month.
- We received two requests just this past week and are continuing to move money.

The year ahead:

Your incredible gifts in 2020 replenished the big wave of spring requests. With the fund stable and larger than ever, we now have a new task ahead—broader outreach and communications about the fund.

With gratitude, we invite you to read the testimony from Zachary Project recipients (page 3). Humbly, we ask you to keep supporting the fund through whatever means you can: a [financial gift](#), a [monthly commitment](#), an invitation to your networks asking them to pitch in (see the outreach tools, pages 5-6), or letting friends of CR Oakland know about the existence of this fund for our movement (email us for the request packet). [Every gift](#) helps grow this resource and our mutual aid practices.

This month is a hard one for those of us who knew and loved Zachary. We send you love, and hope you cherish the memories; they are some of our greatest gifts. We know we are thankful for them.

In solidarity,

The Zachary Project committee, Critical Resistance

P.S. As many of you know, Zachary was a vital part of Critical Resistance's work, helping bring new members into the organization and anchoring editorial oversight of *The Abolitionist* newspaper. He was a dedicated address-checker and prisoner correspondent, an excellent writer, a thoughtful editor, and great at selling the paper at any tabling event (the best, actually); he brought a sharp anti-capitalist analysis, a dry sense of humor, and humble diligence to the editorial process and the grunt work of putting out a paper. It has taken a few years, but last year we began to really acknowledge that the trauma of the loss of Zachary impacted the editorial collective's continuity following his passing. Grief is messy and healing takes time, as they show up in many places in our lives and political work. The newspaper released an excellent issue in November, due in part to the return of a member who used to work on the newspaper with Zachary in earlier years.

Issue 33 rolls out *The Abolitionist's* new paper structure, which includes a feature section, this time focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, and a columns section, with new columns for readers to look forward to every issue. We invite you to take a look: sneak peaks, how to subscribe and sign up people inside. [All here](#).

Continued...



2020 Testimonies:

"The Zachary Project fund supported me in an especially difficult time at the beginning of the pandemic. It helped me fulfill my basic needs - food & living expenses. It helped relieve stress and helped create safety for me in a time of great uncertainty. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!"

"When my workplace closed due to COVID-19, the Zachary Project fund made it possible for me to pay my utilities and rent. I had no income for two months and I would not receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for over three months after I initially applied. The Zachary Project gave me a sense of stability and it was a huge relief during this moment of uncertainty. I am so thankful that the Zachary Project is available to organizers and their communities in difficult times. For me, this resource provided more than just funds--it helped me to feel supported by my comrades."

"The Zachary Project made it possible for my housemates and I to pay a huge water bill as we were looking at needing to cover the costs of someone moving out without notice, and without paying other utilities and rent they owed, all during COVID, and unemployment for some of us. Without these funds, I personally would have been looking at taking on more debt while barely making enough money to survive in this disastrous capitalist society and pandemic we are living through. My housemates and I were able to make it through a financially and emotionally draining time thanks to the funds we received!"

"I was able to pay my rent with these funds from the Zachary project. Because I had money for rent, I could feed my family!"

"The Zachary Project came through for me at a very critical point during the height of the pandemic in April of 2020. I had been working in food service and was abruptly laid off due to shelter-in-place. As a part-timer, with no savings, I was heavily reliant on every paycheck to make rent and keep me afloat. At that time, things were moving very fast across the Bay Area and panic shopping had taken over. Overnight, I was forced to choose between paying rent or buying food. Needless to say, I chose the latter which meant I was instantly struck with the threat of eviction.

"When a good friend of mine told me about the Zachary Project I became ecstatic and applied right away. The funds from this mutual aid project protected me from eviction and literally gave me a leg to stand on in my most desperate hour. Outside of my former day job, I am a working-class Black woman artist and cannot express my gratitude enough for Critical Resistance. This organization has been pivotal in restoring both my personal and artistic livelihood. The Zachary Project is well that can only survive from a communal effort to actively replenish it. I am very grateful to have given back to this fund and ask that you all please do the same. It is an essential resource that directly supports those in need without discrimination."

Left to right: Recipient self-portrait; Crossed; Potted Earth.



2020 Testimonies, continued:

"The Zachary Project was there for me and my family in our darkest moments. We found ourselves houseless after our apartment caught fire, with none of our belongings or even clothing. During these already terrifying times of Covid-19, we desperately needed to shelter and begin to rebuild our stability. We are still on our way to doing that. It is a day by day process, and The Zachary Project held us up when we really needed it."

"While i was struggling to look for funds after i lost my job due to covid, The Zachary Project showed up for me. I didn't have rent or any resources and had lost my housing. They pulled resources together to help get me sheltered through reaching out to community. As a black queer oakland native, I'm hella appreciative for this org. Thanks so much, The Zachary Project."

"The Zachary Project helped my sister-in-law pay the deposit on a three-bedroom apartment for her and her four children. She was released from federal prison into a halfway house September 2019 and released from the halfway house in March 2020. One of her greatest fears was not having a home for her children. The Zachary Project's donation provided her with immediate relief and helped her to raise enough money to get an apartment and move her kids in with them. The home is some much needed stability for them all and it is her first time living on her own. The Zachary Project is an amazing resource; we are thankful to everyone who runs it and contributes to it."



"Because of the rapid response and care I received because of The Zachary Project, I have been able to care for my immediate mental and physical needs. I am able to pay for medication that I need and at this time cannot live without, not even for a day. I remain safe while a pandemic is changing our lives in the deepest of ways and I am indebted to The Zachary Project. The Zachary Project came through for me and my family during this intense and challenging time, in such a way that I have been so impacted that I'm considering creating a fund as The Zachary Project."

How To Support

The Zachary Project is maintained through individual grassroots donations and family gifts. To support this crisis prevention fund, you can make a gift online: <http://criticalresistance.org/donate/the-zachary-project/>

We also accept checks and cash. Please send checks, payable to "Critical Resistance" to:

Critical Resistance, attn: Zachary Project, 1904 Franklin St, #504, Oakland, CA 94612


If you have questions about The Zachary Project or would like to request support, contact croakland@criticalresistance.org or call [510-444-0484](tel:510-444-0484)

New Outreach Materials

Posctard + Flier

THE ZACHARY PROJECT

A MUTUAL AID FUND OF
**CRITICAL RESISTANCE
OAKLAND**
TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY
MEMBERS IN NEED



ABOUT THE ZACHARY PROJECT

The Zachary Project is a mutual aid crisis support and prevention fund, maintained by Critical Resistance Oakland.

The fund has helped Critical Resistance (CR) members and friends to access vital and stabilizing resources in times of mental health crisis, chronic illness, interpersonal violence, and economic instability. Since 2015 we have supported people to secure housing upon return from prison, after a fire, and during domestic violence; to cover income after loss of employment; to buy medications and substance treatment during health insurance and income lapses; to name a few. The Zachary Project enables us to sustain our community through hardship and crises.

In January 2015 Critical Resistance lost a beloved member of our Oakland chapter, Zachary Ontiveros. Zachary was a core member of CR, bringing in new members to the organization and anchoring the editorial board of our newspaper, *The Abolitionist*. Zachary's aunt, Patricia Porter Salazar, and his cousins, Lindsey Adams, Brooke Salazar, and Aaron Salazar, joined forces to establish *The Zachary Project* in 2015. His commitment to fighting for working class power and international liberation is an inspiration to us and will be missed, even as we remember him every day. We hope you will join us in honoring Zachary's life, legacy and commitment to the movement.

HOW TO SUPPORT

The Zachary Project is maintained through individual grassroots donations and family gifts. To support this mutual aid fund, you can make a donation or dedicate a gift in honor of someone.

DONATE ONLINE

criticalresistance.org/the-zachary-project

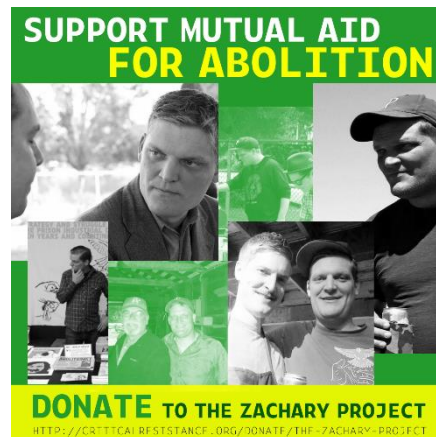
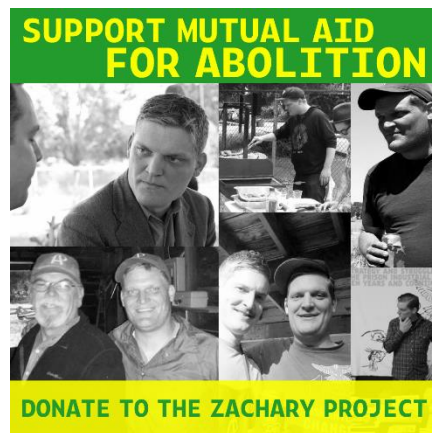
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Social Media Tiles

Below is our first set of social media tiles, made for the “Mutual Aid Monday” fundraiser in spring 2020. As we receive more photos from recipients, we look forward to incorporating varied images representing a range of people touched by The Zachary Project.



The outreach materials are available for viewing and download [here](https://criticalresistance.org/donate/the-zachary-project/).

Please let us know if you would like to help spread the word about The Zachary Project. Email jess@criticalresistance.org with questions, ideas, or opportunities. Thank you for supporting!