

In 2021 The Zachary Project supported our people to secure safe housing after release from prison and temporary housing after fires and other emergencies; to purchase food and basic needs during unanticipated health deterioration; to access medication, skilled support, intensive mental health care resources, and more.

January 26, 2022

Dear Community Keepers of The Zachary Project,

In 2021 The Zachary Project helped us show up for Critical Resistance Oakland's community and support people during distress to make it through challenging circumstances. Thank you so much for helping us build our mutual aid fund, maintain it, and utilize it.

This month, we find ourselves reading the poem "Good Days Coming" by Ho Chi Minh and seeking comfort and inspiration in its beauty. Zachary's family shared this piece at his memorial in 2015 (re-printed on page 4). This poetic reflection on change begins by reminding us that the "wheel/ of the law turns without pause", grounding us in the relentless machinery of society and state. But then, it opens, it lifts up into the universe, thousands of miles high, and brings us to witness the humbling turns and changes of nature in all its beauty: sunlight, flowers, death as well as life. This dual vision, holding sorrow and happiness, speaks to us of the light we might see beyond "wheel/ of the law." As an organization dedicated to abolishing the prison industrial complex (PIC) and the violence that the "wheel/ of the law" imposes, we know we must hold our sights on the beauty of life in the same line of sight that we see the PIC. Throughout and beyond the PIC, we know there is life. This dualistic vision, poetic and spiritual in imagery, political in application, can guide us through the pains of change and challenges. This speaks to the spirit of The Zachary Project.

In memory of Zachary (January 26th is his birthday) and in recognition of the hardships of this past year, we invite you to join us in appreciating some of the sunshine we've cultivated together.

In 2021:

- Eighteen people received support from The Zachary Project, ranging from \$500- \$1,000.
- We distributed \$10,500 (\$4,200 more than in 2020).
- We fundraised/ YOU gifted \$5,049.
 - o 21 Donors, total: Contributions came from loved ones, friends, and people who have accessed the fund in previous years.
 - o 12 monthly sustainers
 - o 9 one-time gifts
- We transitioned fund support responsibilities to new Critical Resistance (CR) staff members, skilling people up in expense and fund management processes and collectivizing knowledge about how the Project works.
- We onboarded two new members to our Zachary Project Committee, a CR Oakland chapter member and our National Membership Coordinator.
- We improved our Request Packet and introduced [an online form](#) to streamline processes for managing the fund and to increase ease of access for people requesting funds.
- We developed new internal orientation materials and deepened current CR members' understanding about the fund, its purpose, and Zachary's legacy as a CR member.

In 2022:

- We have over \$5,800 in the fund at the start of 2022
- We have 12 monthly sustainers, contributing a total of \$295 a month.
- We are committed to continuing to move money to our people in 2022.
- We hope to raise \$6,000+ this year, which would mean we have \$10,000 available for crisis prevention.
- We plan to onboard a new committee member, offboard a longtime member (Jess Heaney) and continue to develop the internal systems to manage the fund. *See page 3 for a note from Jess.
- We will collaborate more closely with *The Abolitionist* newspaper, so that people who were imprisoned subscribers of the newspaper *continue* to access the fund.

Toward the year ahead:

Your incredible gifts in 2020 and 2021 sustained a year of many requests. We hope to sustain our broader outreach about the fund so people continue to utilize it. Therefore, we must replenish the fund after a big year of mutual aid (\$10,000 in 2021) and do some fundraising together.

We invite everyone who has touched The Zachary Project to pitch in.

If you received support funds, we invite you to give forward and help out the next person. If you have donated before, please donate again and invite someone to join you. If you can become a monthly or quarterly sustainer at \$15 or more, please do. Humbly, we ask you to keep supporting the fund through whatever means you can: a [financial gift](#), a [monthly commitment](#), or an invitation to your networks to donate (see the outreach tools, pages 5-6).



Thank you so much! We are honored to grow this resource with you. You are welcome to share this newsletter and let friends of CR Oakland know about the existence of this fund for our movement. You can access [the request packet here](#)). [Every gift](#) helps grow this resource and our mutual aid practices.

This month can be emotional 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. In the spirit of mutual aid and prisoner solidarity, [we invite you check out the "sneak peek"](#) of Issue 36: "Pathways Toward Freedom", [here](#).

Every paid subscription to the newspaper sponsors imprisoned readers' free access to the paper. As Zachary would say, "the paper is never free" because he knew that people outside cages had to give what they could for people inside. You can sign up for a subscription or check out past issues by clicking the ["sneak peek"](#) of Issue 36.

2021 Testimony

"The funds I received from the Zachary Project helped me with rent after the government halted unemployment assistance in 2021. I was still looking for steady work, so being able to get funds from Critical Resistance's project really helped me in a moment of high anxiety and stress, when state help was halted."

"i was able to eat well."

"The Zachary Project helped me financially during a critical moment in my life in mid 2021. I began experiencing a psychotic break and an acute bipolar mixed state episode, which forced me to stop working and enrolling in intensive outpatient programs to restore basic stability. Without income nor sufficient health insurance to cover out-of-pocket program costs, the Zachary Project helped alleviate some of the financial burden I faced while I was working on my recovery."

2022 Transitions: A note from Jess Heaney

At the end of February 2022, I will transition out of the Development Director role at Critical Resistance, and therefore out of The Zachary Project committee. Zachary Ontiveros was a fellow CR member, a friend, and my favorite person with whom to plan and facilitate political education. Working with this committee has been one of the most healing ways to come to terms with the sorrowful change of Zachary no longer being in CR.

Over the past seven years, it's been a bittersweet honor to steward forward The Zachary Project and the fund. I've watched people donate from a genuine place of political commitment, interpersonal and collective care, and emotional earnestness. I've watched people apply to the fund from many walks of life, many often in slight disbelief that such a resource exists and is available to them. On the edge of crisis or in its depths, we've been able to create, provide and offer a unique type of to people help them steady themselves or their loved ones through turmoil. Is \$500 enough to fix everything? Often, no. Is it enough to address some really gaps and reach some crucial needs? Yes. Does the process encourage a greater sense of connectedness, pro-activeness and hope? I think so. In all its simplicity, The Zachary Project is essential, reliable and fruitful.

It takes the humble work spirit that Zachary exuded to keep this project going, year in and year out, request to request, with the political purpose and intention at its foundation. With Zachary's straightforward, dedicated (and funny) spirit on my mind and heart, I invite everyone to help keep this resource going. Thank you so much for helping to create and sustain this meaningful anti-capitalist resource for our people. We are worth it.

With love,

Jess Heaney

The Zachary Project committee, 2015-2022

Good Days Coming

By Ho Chi Minh

Everything changes, the wheel
of the law turns without pause.

After the rain, good weather.

In the wink of an eye

The universe throws off
its muddy cloths.

For ten thousand miles
the landscape

Spreads out like
a beautiful brocade.

Gentle sunshine.

Light breezes. Smiling flowers,

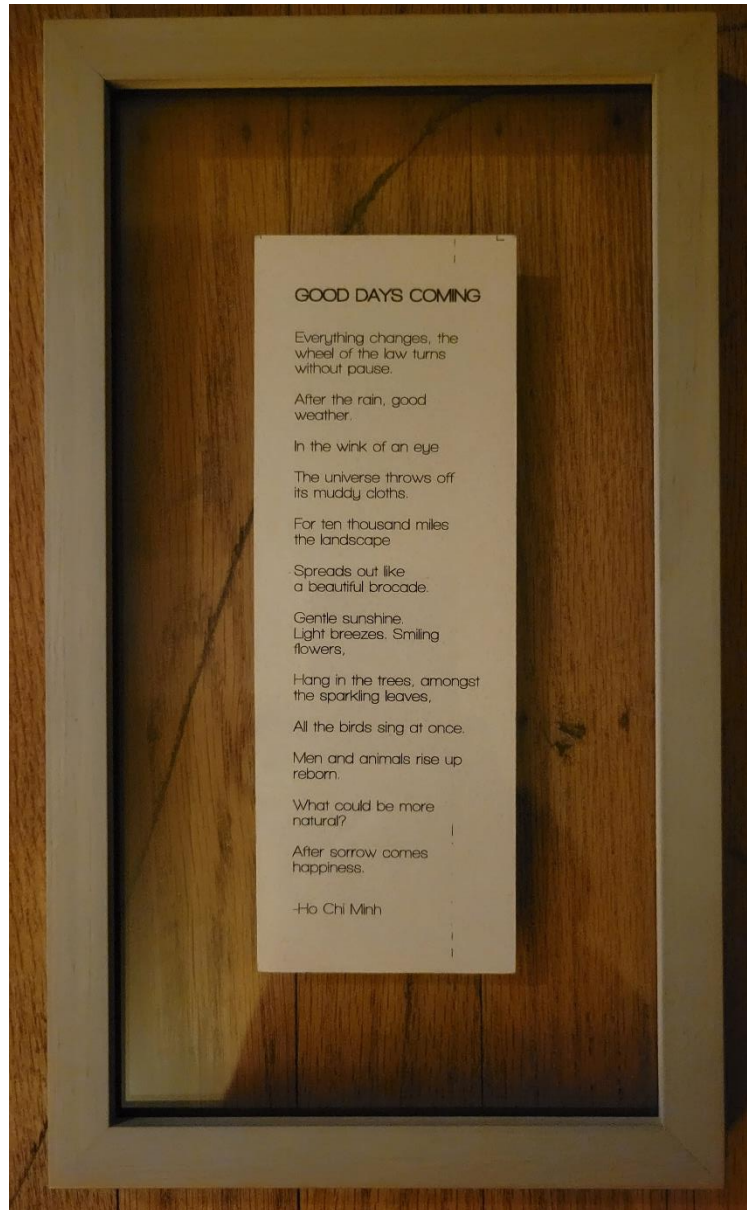
Hang in the trees, amongst the
sparkling leaves,

All the birds sing at once.

Men and animals rise up reborn.

What could be more natural?

After sorrow comes happiness.



*Memorial card, from Santa Maria, CA;
January 2015.*

*Framed by Panorama Framing, Oakland,
CA; January 2022.*



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)

Outreach Materials

Postcard + 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

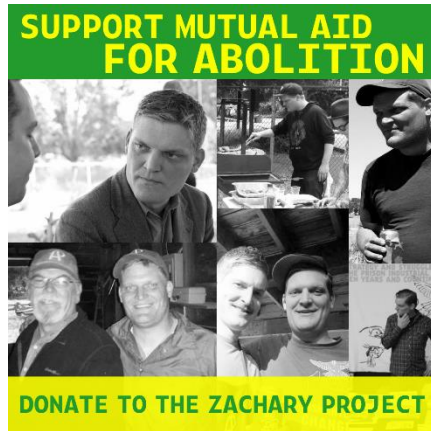
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Social Media Tiles

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](#).

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