
The Zachary Project: 2023-2024 Newsletter

A Project of Critical Resistance Oakland



In 2023, The Zachary Project supported community members with rent and living expenses, and was there to help people meet their physical and mental health needs. From living expenses, to medical bills, and more, we resourced organizers and friends of Critical Resistance suddenly unemployed or coming home from prison.

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January 26, 2024

Dear Community Keepers of The Zachary Project,

2023 marked eight years of mutual aid through **Critical Resistance (CR) Oakland's Zachary Project, a community fund named in honor of beloved former Oakland chapter member, Zachary Ontiveros, to support community members in need.** In one of our largest years to date, we were able to distribute resources to help our people get through difficult periods, or when they just needed that extra help so they could show up as their full selves. All of this was possible through the continued support of this growing community – *Thank You!*

Zachary's birthday is on January 26, so each year around this time we like to look back on the ways his legacy and spirit of mutual aid and radical care have been carried on to benefit countless others. We invite long-time supporters and new friends alike to sustain this work for years to come.

In 2023:

- **Over thirty people received support** from The Zachary Project, ranging from \$500-\$1,000
- **We distributed \$17,000 to over thirty organizers and community members** in our movement ecosystem
- We fundraised / **YOU gifted over \$15,000**
 - 32 donors total: Contributions came from loved ones, friends, some of CR's organizational partners, and people who have accessed the fund in previous years.
 - There were 14 monthly sustainers and 11 one-time gifts

In 2023:

- We have over \$1,000 in the fund at the start of 2023.
- We have 12 monthly sustainers, contributing a total of \$310 a month.
- We are committed to continuing to move money to our people in 2024.
- We hope to raise \$10,000+ this year to have funds readily available for crisis prevention.
- We will continue to collaborate closely with [The Abolitionist newspaper](#) (a project to which Zachary lent his strong editorial guidance to strengthen our inside-outside organizing), so that people who were imprisoned subscribers of the newspaper can access these funds.

Toward the year ahead: **Your incredible gifts in 2023 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 our biggest year of mutual aid yet (\$17,000 in 2023) 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 and help 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 6-7).

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 Bay Area community. You can access the [request form here](#). **Every gift** helps grow this resource and our mutual aid practices. This time of year 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. **Please don't hesitate to connect with us—we would love to keep in touch with you throughout this new year.**

In solidarity,

The Zachary Project Committee,
Critical Resistance



More 2023 Updates from Zachary's chapter: CR Oakland

2023 was a dynamic year for prison industrial complex (PIC) abolition, and CR Oakland took action to push the movement to free people from cages forward. A 2023 year-in-review for CR Oakland can be found [here](#), and we thought we'd share some updates and reflections for our Bay Area supporters of Zachary's home chapter of CR Oakland.



Along with valued coalition partners, CR Oakland and CR Los Angeles have been engaged in the legislative, outreach, [media](#), and inside/outside organizing efforts to [close 10 California prisons by 2025](#).

CR Oakland has a Membership workgroup dedicated to the critical internal work of organizing our volunteers and membership, and this workgroup **onboarded four new members into the chapter** in 2023. The Zachary Project is one of the resources available to our dedicated members.

CR Oakland's Inside-Outside workgroup **maintains the organization's sprawling mail correspondence program** to respond to people inside cages. In 2023, they hosted biweekly in-person mail nights and rolled

out a new mail platform that has made correspondence much smoother. This correspondence program supports the prison closure campaign by helping campaign organizers communicate about the campaign with folks in prisons across California and send in various reports, news articles, and campaign updates to make sure there is continuous conversation about campaign demands and strategies.



Photo by Brooke Anderson | @brookeanderson

CR Oakland has been **strengthening organizing relationships with key movement partners**. In 2023, CR members in the Bay Area supported different Palestinian liberation formations and events, anti-imperialist counter-summits and protests, and more.

Zachary was a vital part of Critical Resistance’s work, helping bring new members into the organization and **anchoring editorial leadership of The Abolitionist newspaper**. In the spirit of mutual aid and prisoner solidarity, we invite you check out the "[sneak peek](#)" of Issue 40: “Control Units”. 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 [here](#).



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

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 310-444-0484

Testimonies from 2023 Recipients of The Zachary Project

“I am a recently released ex-prisoner. The Zachary Project was a lifeline in a sea of uncertainty for me. The fund temporarily calmed the waters and temporarily rested my anxiety about my next meal, clothes on my back and shelter. Ever forward Zachary Project.”



“I am deeply grateful for the support CR’s Zachary Project provided when I was suddenly unemployed. I volunteer in the work to free Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, so the sudden loss of income was momentarily debilitating, until the Zachary Project provided stabilizing help. That help, 80 trips around the Sun, and a few deep breaths empowered yet another round of job hunting, with humbleness, confidence and trust, while continuing to volunteer to Free Them All!”



How To Support The Zachary Project

The Zachary Project is maintained through individual grassroots donations and family gifts. To support this crisis prevention fund, you can make a gift online:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/criticalresistance>

- Under Program Designation, make sure to **select “The Zachary Project.”**

We also accept checks and cash.

Please send checks, payable to "Critical Resistance" to:

Critical Resistance, Attn: Zachary Project, PO Box 22780, Oakland CA 94609-2301

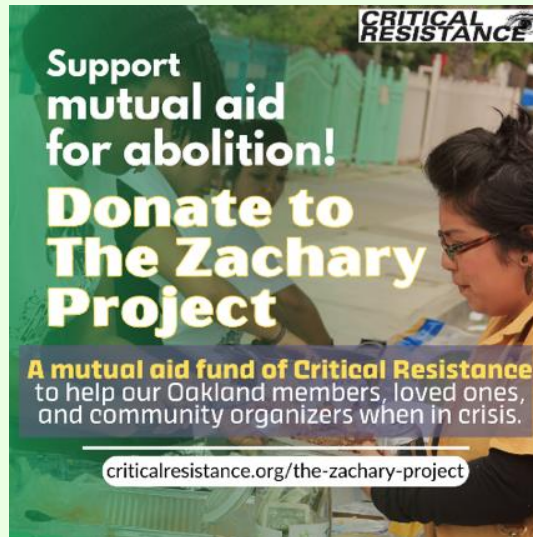
If you have questions about The Zachary Project or would like to request support,

fill out the [request form here](#)

Outreach Materials

Below are some longstanding and more recent social media tiles. 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 shirley@criticalresistance.org and liz@criticalresistance.org with questions, ideas, or opportunities. Thank you for helping us support our people.

