



2015
ANNUAL
REPORT



We are a multi-generational membership organization devoted to aligning our resources with our values while fostering a fertile training ground for the full and authentic expression of our passions and purpose.

Who is Threshold?

The Threshold Foundation is built on passionate members, shared social justice values, and participatory grantmaking.

Membership

in the last three years



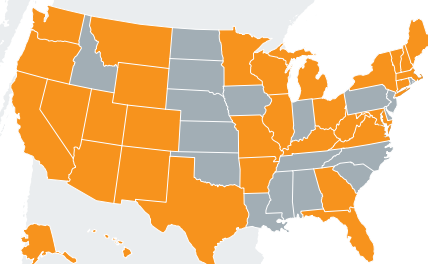
350 members

age range 62 years

8 countries

32 US states

59 new members



Grantmaking



\$1.2M+ granted

5 major issue areas

\$43M+ since inception

1,800+ organizations benefitted

“This unique blend of activism and philanthropy has encouraged younger members, such as myself, to become more involved, as well as learn more about the philanthropic process as a whole.”

—new Threshold member



Community

Oldest progressive donor network in the country

Conscious, responsible and adaptive philanthropy

Exploring personal connections to wealth



Conferences

2 member conferences with

200+ attendees focussing on **othering**, **building inclusive community**, and **exploring the sacred**, among other topics.



Committees

10 committees of self-selecting members that nourish different aspects of the network such as membership, conference agendas, investments, kids and youth programs.

Letter from the President

At Threshold, we approach philanthropy as a learning experience in collaboration, consciousness, and continuous evolution.

Since our grantmaking began in 1984, the foundation has served as a quiet catalyst for social and environmental justice, often providing critical ‘first funding’ to bold and innovative organizations that have, in many cases, become pillars of their movements.

In pursuit of continuous learning in an ever-changing world, Threshold is always exploring new ways of doing, and communicating about, our work. In 2015, we continued to support leading organizations that were uniquely positioned to create change, and we also began a process of renewing our philanthropic approach. We embarked on a community-wide journey to better understand how we give and how we could adapt to the shifting needs of the movements we support—from criminal justice reform to protecting indigenous forests and waterways to documentary films showcasing poverty’s effect on education.

We are thrilled that Threshold has transitioned from standing committees to an all-funding circle model, enabling us to better align our structure with our values, as well as to simplify our process for the members that guide our grantmaking and our amazing grantee partners.

In doing so, we aim to weave the fabric of our network tighter and to find the flexibility and adaptiveness required to tackle the challenges that lay ahead.

Over the course of the year we’ve taken off our shoes, dug our feet into the earth, and ground ourselves in our mission, purpose, and work. My hope is that sharing our story of regeneration may spark inspiration to learn more about Threshold’s network and growing constellation of grantees and partners in the field. We look forward to another year of deepening collaborative conversations around what Threshold has already nurtured in the world and discovering what incredible opportunities are yet to unfold.



Yours in pursuit of a more just, joyful and generative world,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Terrence Meck'.

Terrence Meck, President

Board of Directors

- Terrence Meck
- Anne Golden
- Jodie Evans
- Allan Badiner
- Anne Irwin
- Dawn Newton
- Reid Williams
- Erika Harrison

Staff

- Doug Seckinger and Julia Diao,
Foundation Managers
- Stephanie Alston,
Event Manager
- Elizabeth Aviles,
Membership Coordinator



A Grantmaking Model Built on Deep Relationships

Rooted in Community

Since its inception in 1981, Threshold has pioneered and experimented with collaborative philanthropy in pursuit of positive change in the world. Our grantmaking serves as a quiet catalyst for social and environmental justice, supporting national and international movements by annually raising over \$1million from Threshold network members to fund innovative nonprofit organizations.

Central to Threshold's grantmaking model is member engagement. Our volunteer network of members brings a wide array of philanthropic experience to the process, making each grant cycle a unique learning environment for effective giving. Our grantmaking has always been driven by members, but in our quest to continually renew strategies in philanthropy, build greater opportunities for community-building, and invest in new ideas and movements, Threshold decided in 2015 to move to an all-giving circle model.



Community + Grantmaking = Funding Circles

Giving circles are not a new concept. But they have taken off amidst growing interest in collaborative grantmaking in the broader social change field.

At Threshold, we first began developing funding circles, our interpretation of giving circles, in 2007. We've experimented with the model since then, and completed a formal evaluation of the grantmaking program in 2015. With an eye toward dynamic, collaborative giving, and streamlining the grants process, we made a full commitment to our funding circle model.

The funding circle structure enables members to increase their awareness of, and engagement in, some of the most pressing issues of our time, and, in turn, share their stories of impact across the growing global Threshold network. Funding circle members contribute time and money to pooled funds, participate in dynamic decision-making processes inspired by Threshold's culture and rich history of grantmaking, and engage the larger Threshold community to contribute funds to support the local, national, and global challenges they are addressing.

We are thrilled to be moving forward with a single, responsive, community-centered model for our annual grantmaking program.

Learn more about each of our funding circles and the bold work they are supporting on the subsequent pages.



FOOD + FARMING

The dominant system of agriculture in the United States today is damaging the health of our people and planet. The Food and Farming Funding Circle works collaboratively to

change the discourse among funders and policymakers,

transforming the dominant, destructive farming policies and practices of today towards regenerative models of agriculture.

Transforming Agricultural Perceptions, Policy + Practice

Taking a Human- and Earth-Centered Approach

“Our funding circle has supported and challenged each other in expanding our knowledge of the space as we focus on the shared goal of creating a paradigm shift around agriculture.”

Our grantees are regrowing food systems that respect the integrity, diversity and resilience of the planet’s communities and ecosystems. Read more about their work in the Grants List on page 10.



Protecting the Planet for the Benefit of All Beings

Meeting Pressing Challenges with Creative Solutions

There is no one solution to the climate crisis. The Sustainable Planet Committee supports a diverse range of multi-disciplinary, long-term efforts and organizations with a focus on

ensuring the health of the planet by transforming policy,

action, culture, and technology so that we may live and thrive within the physical limits of local and global ecosystems.

Whether they're working toward cleaner energy solutions or supporting indigenous leaders to protect biodiverse carbon sinks, our grantees rely on the power and wisdom of activist movements as well as policy solutions to protect the planet. Read more about their work in the Grants List on page 10.

“My own knowledge about climate change, funding, strategy and support has grown immensely over my last two years with the funding circle. It's been inspiring to learn about and support so much wonderful climate work. Now, when I hear people talk about feeling helpless in our current climate situation, I want to shout out “There is so much good work going on!”





HIGH IMPACT
DOCUMENTARY FILMS



Changing the Way People See the World

Sparking Reflection, Dialogue and Action

“

Talented filmmakers bring us to the fault lines and painful fractures in society, ushering us into intimate proximity with those suffering injustice, often over generations.”



Documentary filmmakers are

filling an important cultural void by making a statement on some of the most controversial and critical issues of our day

in unexpected and innovative ways. The High Impact Documentary Films Funding Circle, in partnership with Sundance Institute, supports change-making films from across the globe.

Our grantmaking connects and builds capacity for community leaders working at the regional and translocal scale across the United States. Our grantees are making neighborhoods more equitable and sustainable, one at a time. Read more about their work in the Grants List on page 10.

THRIVING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Thriving Resilient Communities Funding Circle supports community-based resilience networks that

advocate for inclusive economic models and social justice through intersectional, whole community actions.

Networks, and the collaboration between them, will be critical to breaking down sector silos and affecting systemic transformation and global resilience.

Funding Community Networks for Change

Building Local and Global Resilience

Our grantmaking connects and builds capacity for community leaders working at the regional and translocal scale across the United States. Our grantees are making neighborhoods more equitable and sustainable, one at a time. Read more about their work in the Grants List on page 10.

Resilience is a community's ability to adapt and thrive in changing conditions instead of collapsing during a shock.



JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY

Promoting Justice and Inclusion for all

Creating Bottom-up Reform

The Justice and Democracy Committee has a two-fold focus: supporting organizations working to protect the rights of incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and convicted people and their families, inside and outside of prison; and expanding civic participation, especially for underrepresented communities.

We support innovative grantees who are working to break cycles of institutional oppression

and provide new opportunities and solutions for communities impacted by the criminal justice system and political exclusion
Read more about their work in the Grants List on page 10.

“Partnering with activists and hearing directly from them on the issues we support and how we support them has been immensely informative. I’ve learned so much and it’s exciting to see other funding circles bringing the grassroots perspective to their funding model.”



2015 Grantees

Food and Farming

Center for Food Safety [↗](#) \$25,000
Friends of Action Group on Erosion Technology and Concentration Inc. [↗](#) \$40,000
Friends of Family Farmers [↗](#) \$20,000
Friends of the Earth [↗](#) \$34,000
Fundación Semillas de Vida, A.C. [↗](#) \$25,000
Greenhorns [↗](#) \$30,000
Land Stewardship Project [↗](#) \$18,000
Quivira Coalition [↗](#) \$15,000
Sustainable Economies Law Center [↗](#) \$40,000

Sustainable Planet

Amazon Watch [↗](#) \$39,000
Bonobo Conservation Initiative [↗](#) \$35,000
Carbon Tax Center [↗](#) \$27,000
Center for Health, Environment and Justice [↗](#) \$25,000
Clean Coalition [↗](#) \$25,000
Defensa y Conservación Ecológica de Intag [↗](#) \$22,000
Dogwood Alliance [↗](#) \$37,000
Friends of the Earth [↗](#) \$35,000
Georgia Strait Alliance [↗](#) \$30,000
Oregon Climate [↗](#) \$25,000
Partnership for Policy Integrity Inc. [↗](#) \$35,000
Rainforest Conservation Fund [↗](#) \$30,000
Sightline Institute [↗](#) \$25,000
Taxpayers for Common Sense [↗](#) \$37,000
Vancouver Observer [↗](#) \$31,000

High Impact Documentary

Blue ID [↗](#) \$14,000
Low Key Pictures [↗](#) \$50,000
Openhood, Inc. [↗](#) \$50,000
Sundance Institute [↗](#) \$35,000

Thriving Resilient Communities

Climate Justice Alliance \$50,000
Daily Acts [↗](#) \$23,500
Local Economy Institute [↗](#) \$13,500
MetaFoundation [↗](#) \$18,000
New Economy Coalition, Inc. [↗](#) \$11,000
Thriving and Resilient Communities Collaboratory [↗](#) \$21,000

Justice and Democracy

A Better Way Foundation [↗](#) \$17,000
All of Us or None – Southern California [↗](#) \$17,000
American Indian Prison Project Working Group \$17,000
Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation [↗](#) \$17,000
BreakOUT! [↗](#) \$17,000
Chickaloon Native Village [↗](#) \$17,000
Homies Unidos [↗](#) \$17,000
Mississippi Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse \$17,000
Rescue, Release and Restore, Inc. NFP [↗](#) \$17,000
SpiritHouse Inc. [↗](#) \$17,000
The Gathering for Justice [↗](#) \$17,000
Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation [↗](#) \$17,000

Informal Grants

Advocates for Informed Choice [↗](#) \$18,365
City Surf Project [↗](#) \$29,975
Climbing PoeTree [↗](#) \$28,175
Compassion Games: Survival of the Kindest [↗](#) \$14,880
End the Drug War Caravan of the Americas [↗](#) \$17,650
Funding Queerly Giving Circle [↗](#) \$27,125
Holistic Management International [↗](#) \$24,700
Honoring the Path of the Warrior [↗](#) \$23,175
Institute for Policy Studies [↗](#) \$20,625
Mariposa Community Land Trust [↗](#) \$18,700
My Voice Music [↗](#) \$26,590
Partnership for Peace [↗](#) \$36,450
Red Lodge Transition Services [↗](#) \$34,280
Seeds of Solidarity [↗](#) \$14,970
Shaka Movement [↗](#) \$29,750
Twentycents Left Productions and Akeret Films [↗](#) \$15,345
Walk to Paris \$21,025
Youth Passageways [↗](#) \$20,250

Discretionary Grants

Newark Community Street Team [↗](#) \$1,830

Threshold Foundation

Statements of Financial Position

(with summarized information for the year ended December 31, 2014)

December 31,	2015	2014
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,135,564	\$ 1,525,577
Pledges receivable	17,335	2,000
Interest receivable	4,796	4,097
Other current assets	12,958	6,271
Deposits	75,800	24,832
Investments, at fair value	2,189,585	2,058,378
Program related investments	444,195	445,632
Intangible assets, net	51,442	56,820
Total assets	\$ 3,931,675	\$ 4,123,607
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 87	\$ 9,347
Grants payable	60,000	253,000
Deferred conference revenue	137,490	75,000
Total liabilities	197,577	337,347
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
General operations	627,868	589,550
Designated for grantmaking pool	60,739	(120,537)
Designated for endowment purposes	2,608,080	2,765,228
Total unrestricted net assets	3,296,687	3,234,241
Temporarily restricted net assets	437,411	552,019
Total net assets	3,734,098	3,786,260
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,931,675	\$ 4,123,607

Threshold Foundation Statements of Activities

(with summarized information for the year ended December 31, 2014)

Years Ended December 31,	2015		2014	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Totals	Totals
Support and Revenue				
Grants and contributions	\$ 1,357,399	\$ 342,506	\$ 1,699,905	\$ 1,457,624
Membership fees	185,239	94,905	280,144	279,290
Conference revenues	441,955	-	441,955	348,982
Investment income				
Interest and dividends	46,620	-	46,620	51,058
Investment fees	(21,236)	-	(21,236)	(20,258)
Net realized gains	80,817	-	80,817	198,106
Net unrealized losses	(149,150)	-	(149,150)	(111,954)
	1,941,644	437,411	2,379,055	2,202,848
Net assets released from restriction	552,019	(552,019)	-	-
Total support and revenue	2,493,663	(114,608)	2,379,055	2,202,848
Expenses				
Program services				
Grants	1,665,965	-	1,665,965	1,813,755
Conference expenses	434,583	-	434,583	300,327
Membership services	133,484	-	133,484	93,074
Total program services	2,234,032	-	2,234,032	2,207,156
Supporting services				
Grantmaking support	65,259	-	65,259	63,588
Board/corporate support	131,926	-	131,926	135,890
Total supporting services	197,185	-	197,185	199,478
Total expenses	2,431,217	-	2,431,217	2,406,634
Change in net assets	62,446	(114,608)	(52,162)	(203,786)
Net assets at beginning of year	3,234,241	552,019	3,786,260	3,990,046
Net assets at end of year	\$ 3,296,687	\$ 437,411	\$ 3,734,098	\$ 3,786,260

Threshold Foundation Statements of Cash Flows

(with summarized information for the year ended December 31, 2014)

Years Ended December 31,	2015	2014
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ (52,162)	\$ (203,786)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash used in operating activities:		
Amortization	37,683	23,962
Net realized gains on investments	(80,817)	(198,106)
Net unrealized losses on investments	149,150	111,954
Contributed stock	(120,984)	(94,435)
Proceeds from the sale of contributed stock	112,514	84,331
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Pledges receivable	(15,335)	10,650
Interest receivable	(699)	2,908
Other current assets	(6,687)	10,615
Deposits	(50,968)	(4,332)
Accounts payable	(9,260)	(5,204)
Grants payable	(193,000)	39,000
Deferred conference revenue	62,490	9,165
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(168,075)	(213,278)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of investments	(656,835)	(355,968)
Proceeds from sale of investments	468,639	1,278,036
Website	(32,305)	(31,581)
Change in program related investments	(1,437)	(3,025)
Net cash (used in)/ provided by investing activities	(221,938)	887,462
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(390,013)	674,184
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,525,577	851,393
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 1,135,564	\$ 1,525,577

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