

# FOURTH GENERATION Celebrating 10 Years



## 10 YEARS OF LIFTING UP COMMUNITY

The Fourth Generation Fund got its start in 2010, when the Minneapolis Foundation launched a new iteration of the Community Capital Alliance—a collaborative, volunteer-driven giving program that aimed to engage new and more diverse leaders in philanthropy.

Ten years later, 400+ members of Fourth Generation have chosen 10 timely topics to address, hosted nine fundraising events, gone on more than 100 site visits, and raised and donated more than \$493,000 to local nonprofit organizations.

In 2020, COVID-19 and the aftermath of George Floyd's death have changed the way we participate in the world. But Fourth Generation is still going strong – we've found effective ways to connect digitally and we continue to reevaluate and improve our practices to support equity and racial justice.

As we embark on our next decade of giving, we invite you scroll through these snapshots of our history. Take a peek at how our grant recipients are making an impact in our community, how they used their Fourth Generation funding, and how they're adapting and innovating during a time of unprecedented challenges. You'll also hear from past and current members about how being part of Fourth Generation has changed their own lives. If these stories inspire you, join us! Learn more at fourthgenfund.org.

#### **OUR PAST GRANTMAKING TOPICS INCLUDE:**

FOOD JUSTICE

| • | AFFORDABLE HOUSING      | • | MENTAL HEALTH                              |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| • | AGING                   | • | PLACE-BASED DISPARITIES                    |
| • | CLIMATE JUSTICE         | • | <b>RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS</b> |
| • | CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM | • | SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT                 |

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

### The Process

Every year, we vote to choose a critical issue facing our community. Then we meet monthly to learn about it, pool our own contributions, and host a fundraiser—all to support the grants we award in the spring.

Fourth Generation is open to everyone and inspires both personal and collective action. Members learn how to apply their values to their philanthropy—while viewing it all through an anti-racist lens.





### BIG RIVER FARMS

In 2012, Fourth Generation sowed seeds of change with a grant to the Minnesota Food Association, now known as Big River Farms.

Located in Marine on St. Croix, Big River Farms seeks to address racial and other disparities in farming. The challenges are real: Even as Minnesota's overall population becomes more diverse, over 99% of all farm acreage is operated by white farmers.\* For farmers of color, limited access to land, capital, and markets can all be barriers to success. Immigrant farmers face additional hurdles related to literacy, language, and a lack of familiarity with the culture and available government programs.

To close these gaps, Big River Farms helps farmers from diverse backgrounds including immigrants, refugees, and people of color—gain the education and skills they need to start organic farm businesses. Program participants receive classroom education, hands-on training, access to resources, and assistance with distributing and selling produce. Many participants can sell their produce through CSAs and at farmers markets.

Every year, Big River Farms convenes farmers, farm advocates, educators, agency officials, and others at its Emerging Farmers Conference. The conference provides access to education and resources, fosters relationships between farmers and



community partners, and empowers participants to lead change in their communities. Participants represent many ethnicities and cultural groups; 97% of those who attended in 2020 identified as farmers of color.

In 2020, with demand for food support surging during the pandemic, Big River Farms' parent organization, The Food Group, is also making a difference by investing heavily in a project called Farm to Family, which pays farmers to distribute surplus produce to food shelves. As a result, crops such as cucumbers, sweet peppers, cherry tomatoes, zucchini, carrots, and squash are making their way to kitchen tables across our community.

Visit their website to learn more:

THEFOODGROUPMN.ORG

#### HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS AND ALUMNI:



### Lisa Troutman



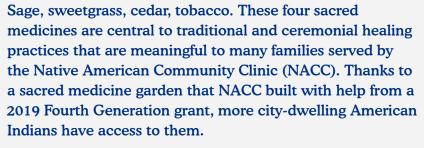
Fourth Geneneration catalyzed my sense of agency over how, to whom, and why I contribute. I learned how to assess a nonprofit's health and potential, I built muscle around unpacking biases and seeing blind spots, and I clarified my values. With that, I developed a framework for my family to laser-focus our behaviors and investments on the changes we wish to see in the world.

I know now that I can take any civic issue that is keeping me up at night and look for the helpers who are already dismantling it from all sides—direct service, policy, advocacy. There are always people leaning in to the hard problems in my community; my job is to bring the curiosity and support.

Fourth Geneneration gave me access to an uncommon peer group of civic-minded, anti-racist professionals who have the resources, access, and intent to change our community for the better.

## NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLINIC







Expanding community access to these sacred medicines is just one way that NACC advances its mission of promoting the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the community.

A year after receiving its Fourth Generation grant, NACC has completed its garden project, harvested medicines, and created a video message from an elder-in-residence on how to harvest and to use sage in self-care and healing.

Visit their website to learn more:

NACC-HEALTHCARE.ORG

"Working with Fourth Generation was simply delightful and amazing. They are a group of young philanthropists with beautiful spirits and generous hearts who are deeply dedicated to supporting issues at the heart of healing and social justice. NACC is so grateful for the support and the opportunity to work together on solving this challenge for our community. Chi-Migwitch! (Huge thanks!)"

#### DR. ANTHONY STATELY, NAAC LEADER



**ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:** 



## AIN DAH YUNG CENTER

American Indian youth got a helping hand as they moved from supportive to traditional housing thanks to a 2018 Fourth Generation Grant to the Ain Dah Yung Center (ADYC).

Residents at ADYC's Beverly A. Benjamin Youth Lodge face challenges that range from finding stable housing to healing historical trauma. To support them in becoming independent, successful young adults, ADYC provides them with skill-building resources related to everything from socio-emotional development and mental health to financial literacy. The Center also makes sure residents become enrolled members of their tribe, helping them make connections to their Native culture and build the kind of community safety nets that everyone needs in times of transition.

When these young people are ready to move into affordable housing, a big obstacle they often face is access to funds to pay the first month's rent and deposit, and well as the kinds of one-time household expenses that come with moving. These costs aren't traditionally covered by state grants. Fourth Generation's grant enabled ADYC to provide security deposits and rental assistance to youth ages 16 to 21, so they could secure stable housing after leaving the program.

In November 2019, ADYC opened Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung, a 42-unit permanent supportive housing project offering fully furnished efficiency apartments to American Indian youth ages 18 to 24, with a full suite of culturally specific services just downstairs. As of 2020, seven residents from the youth lodge have made the transition to independent living at Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung—part of the legacy of Fourth Generation's giving.

Visit their website to learn more:

**ADYCENTER.ORG** 





## INQUILINXS UNIDXS POR JUSTICIA

A 2018 Fourth Generation grant to Inquilinxs Unidxs Por Justicia supported tenant organizing and coalition building, emphasizing the importance of uplifting the voices and experiences of renters as they work for systemic change.

That work continues during the pandemic. As part of their struggle to achieve just outcomes for renters in South Minneapolis, Inquilinxs recently supported renters in buying five Corcoran neighborhood buildings called the Sky without Limits Cooperative Community. Today, they are organizing and supporting the cooperative's transition.

The organization's staff congratulated Fourth Generation on its 10th anniversary, with appreciation for its community-based approach and commitment to collective decision-making.

Visit their website to learn more:

INQUILINXSUNIDXS.ORG





Visit their website to learn more:

VAILPLACE.ORG

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

## VAIL PLACE

Supporting people with serious mental illnesses was the goal of a 2016 grant that Fourth Generation made to Vail Place. The grant went to Vail's Clubhouse Community Support Program, which helps people achieve economic stability, safe and affordable housing, community engagement and support, and health and wellness.

One huge barrier that people with serious mental illnesses often face is a lack of coordination among the many community programs and services designed to meet their multiple and complex needs. Vail Place serves as a community-based "hub," a single point for people to access and integrate the various services they require.

That critical work continues in 2020. Vail Place's service model has allowed it to step up to the challenges posed by a pandemic, and the organization has scaled up. It has moved all its programs online, not only serving its existing population safely but also connecting with people who had previously not been able to access in-person services because of transportation or health issues. Vail Place has been able to add new staff and is developing new integrated care partnerships with major health care providers. The result? In these challenging times, Vail Place is reaching more people than ever, especially those most at risk.



## WELLSHARE INTERNATIONAL

With help from a Fourth Generation grant, WellShare International increased its capacity to serve refugee and immigrant communities in Minnesota in a sustainable and high-quality manner. The organization used grant funding to engage with partner organizations and government agencies, track statistics, demographic information and other data on refugees and immigrants, and use this information to adapt and expand its programs to meet community needs.

WellShare International believes that health is the foundation of both individual and collective success. Bridging the health gap is necessary for all people to have the chance to thrive. Without access to culturally relevant and diverse health information, resources, and care, immigrants--like all of us--cannot thrive and often struggle to survive.

WellShare's many programs address the health needs of refugee and immigrant communities in Minnesota and underserved rural populations in East Africa.

Community health workers are trained to provide a range of health services, including the promotion of a tobacco-free lifestyle, nutrition education, prevention and management of chronic diseases, family planning and reproductive health education, promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth, and skills that help immigrants and refugees navigate the U.S. health system.

Visit their website to learn more:

WELLSHAREINTERNATIONAL.ORG

#### HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS AND ALUMNI:



#### Lolyann Connor

I highly recommend participating in Fourth Generation – it is such an enriching and rewarding opportunity. Through the Fourth Gen grantmaking process, members have the opportunity to make a significant and real impact in our community. I feel there truly is no better way to learn about the issues facing our community, the nonprofits that work in the arena of the member-selected topic area, and the inner working of the grant-making process.

If you're familiar with Gallup's StrengthsFinder, one of my top strengths is "Learner." As a Learner, I really appreciated the educational opportunities I received each year as a member. Every year is different – a new topic area to dive into and understand, different nonprofit sectors to learn about, new educational opportunities provided by the Minneapolis Foundation, and new people to meet. I loved each and every one of the years I participated. It feels good to work toward something that lifts all boats, and to do so with amazing people who care about making our community and the world a better place.



#### Sara Lueben

Fourth Generation encouraged me to become a more thoughtful donor. I learned how to look critically at my own biases in my decision making. Being surrounded by different perspectives, allowed me to explore topics that I wouldn't have on my own. It also reinforced the importance of keeping racial equity central as we do this work.

Working in nonprofits, most of my passion was for the front-line work. Learning more about how policy creates the conditions that the frontline has to address encouraged me to think more broadly about solutions.

It has been an amazing experience! I am humbled by the amount of people that give up their time and resources to make a change in our community. It is also great to see people so willing to honestly explore racism and the harm it causes in community and to then DO something to impact that issue.

BIASE





## HELP AT YOUR DOOR

In 2015, one of Fourth Generation's grants allowed Help At Your Door to buy and deliver more groceries to isolated seniors and individuals with disabilities who need a little help to remain independent.

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected nonprofits like Help At Your Door (HAYD) that provide essential services to vulnerable populations. In the initial weeks of the pandemic, organizations scrambled to adjust to a constantly changing situation, pivoting into new methods of service delivery while simultaneously dealing with the financial impacts of COVID-19.

Unlike many other local organizations that provide home-based services, Help At Your Door has not only maintained its operations but heightened its capacity, filling in gaps where other organizations have been unable to assist. HAYD has served Twin Cities clients for more than 36, but 2020 has been a true test of its ability to swiftly adapt as needs change in our community. And it's a test the nonprofit is passing with flying colors.

Visit their website to learn more:

HELPATYOURDOOR.ORG

## MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID

A 2018 Fourth Generation grant to Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid helped the organization secure the technology essential to help families facing eviction, along with those facing unhealthy and unsafe conditions in their homes.

Two years later, Legal Aid can still feel the difference made by that grant. When COVID-19 hit, Legal Aid searched for ways to help. Families continued to face eviction during the pandemic. Despite state and federal eviction moratoriums, some landlords sought to evict families using exceptions to anti-eviction decrees. Other families needed the court system to force landlords to make necessary repairs—but courts remained unsafe and inaccessible to many people concerned about COVID infection. Although Fourth Generation's funding was mostly spent by 2020, the grant made space in Legal Aid's technology budgets for new purchases, helping the organization as it created two virtual courtrooms in its offices.

Legal Aid's virtual courtrooms are outfitted with the technology required for families to safely and effectively access the court system, including new and faster computers, flat screens, high-quality microphones, and webcams. Plexiglass dividers, ample space, masks, and sanitation protocols minimize the chance of infection. The virtual courtrooms allow staff to bridge the technology gap clients face and allow them to tell their stories to judges without going to physical courtrooms.

Even before the pandemic, Fourth Generation-funded laptops allowed Legal Aid to have multiple lawyers at court helping as many families as possible. The computers enabled them to efficiently represent families on the fly—searching databases, accessing court records, and researching legal defenses in the long, busy hallways at the courthouse. Judges complimented Legal Aid on the quality of their evidence. Professional binders with glossy pictures helped judges see the true, full effects of mold growth, holes in walls, and animal infestations in people's homes. A famous picture of a raccoon peeking through a ceiling was even referenced by justices during a Supreme Court oral argument—and Legal Aid won that case, unanimously, improving the law for every family in Minnesota.

Visit their website to learn more:

**MYLEGALAID.ORG** 

SOURCE

## NORTHPOINT HEALTH & WELLNESS



A 2017 Fourth Generation grant supported NorthPoint's African American Men Project (AAMP), which helps young men overcome a variety of barriers to obtain education, housing, employment, and more. Ultimately, the project supports these Minneapolis men as they walk the path to becoming healthy and successful wage earners, fathers, and community leaders.

Funding the programs like AAMP is always needed because of the daunting challenges facing so many Black men in America. Young Black men continue to have disproportionately poorer outcomes in education and employment, disparate medical and mental health status, and higher levels of involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. In addition, as recent events have shown, African American men continue to face a higher risk of being killed, either through violence in their communities or at the hands of law enforcement.

Over the past two years, AAMP has expanded to include work that's geared toward reducing the number of young African American men involved with gangs and other forms of street violence. The program has proven highly effective, and in its first two years, its team worked with twice as many participants as expected. AAMP now has a dedicated full-time staff of two.

Visit their website to learn more:

NORTHPOINTHEALTH.ORG

#### HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS AND ALUMNI:





### Sam Rosenbaum

Before I joined Fourth Generation, I was not particularly thoughtful or "intentional" about my charitable giving. Through my five years with the group, I learned a ton about my personal values and how to apply them to my philanthropy. I have taken the skills I've developed and applied them to "giving circle"-type endeavors with my friends and family.

Even though I grew up in Minneapolis, I now feel a much deeper connection to my community. Because of my participation in Fourth Gen, I have a better understanding of the areas of need and the organizations that are working to meet those needs. I also feel strongly about keeping my philanthropy local in a way that I really did not before I joined Fourth Gen.

As a member (and, eventually, Chair) of the Advisory Board, I gained leadership skills that I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to develop, which have been a great help to me in my professional life as a corporate lawyer. Most importantly, I got to know and work with great people to give back to my community!



### Julia Quanrud

Fourth Generation helped me identify and shape both my giving habits and priorities. I also really appreciated the opportunity to practice philanthropy in community.

Fourth Generation's yearlong deep-dive into pressing community issues helped me better understand the challenges in my community and what the community was doing to address those challenges. Without question, Fourth Generation deepened my civic engagement.

I joined Fourth Generation very early in my career and so Fourth Generation had an enormous impact on my professional development and the career choices I made. Serving as the Grantmaking Chair and Advisory Board Chair were especially important professional experiences that profoundly impacted how I lead today.

## **SPRINGBOARD FOR THE ARTS**





Springboard for the Arts received a Fourth Generation grant in 2013 to expand their Artists Resource Center in Lowertown St. Paul, giving artists access to low-cost, high-quality DIY imaging, printing, and computer services.

Minnesota is a great place for artists, and a big part of that is the many resources and opportunities that are available to them in the Twin Cities. But taking advantage of many of those resources requires a certain amount of digital know-how, whether that means uploading a form, resizing an image, or designing a color poster. The Resource Center helped remove those barriers by making these tools either free or low-cost, and providing a supportive, friendly atmosphere where artists knew they'd be welcome, and knew they could find assistance if they needed it. During the pandemic, the digital divide continues to grow for communities of color, rural communities, and elder artists. The importance of assisting with digital literacy and access to tools now feels doubly important.

The Resource Center felt like the beating heart of Springboard's space for the year of Fourth Generation's grant cycle and beyond. Hundreds of artists passed through, some just once and others almost daily. In so many cases, the relationships there were built upon gratitude: from artists to Springboard for having the space available, and from Springboard to artists for the important, inspiring, and sometimes overlooked work they do in our communities.

Visit their website to learn more:

SPRINGBOARDFORTHEARTS.ORG



## IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

In 2014, a Fourth Generation Grant to ILCM helped to expand its cultural and language capacity to provide legal services for Hmong and Somali individuals and their families.

Minnesota is home to one of the most diverse immigrant communities in the nation. The state holds the largest group of Somali and Karen communities in the country, and the second-largest Hmong population. Although immigrants make up a sizable portion of our communities, they continue to face unique barriers to safety, stability, and opportunities. ILCM helps to remove these barriers and supports immigrants as they build better futures for themselves and their families. In the past year alone, it has helped more than 4,500 individuals and their families who came from 115 different countries around the world.

Visit their website to learn more:

**ILCM.ORG** 

"We appreciated the Fourth Generation's creative and authentic approach to grantmaking. The direct involvement of a diverse group of donors in the process, and a clear commitment to learning about the complex issues related to immigration fostered a relationship that truly felt like we were in this effort together."

VEENA IYER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





**ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:** 

## EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

In 2015, Fourth Generation supported East Side Neighborhood Services with a grant for its Friendship Center Adult Day Program. For 40 years, this program helped keep seniors in their communities, decreasing social isolation while providing support to caregivers.

In 2018, East Side decided to close this formal center, but it continues to grow its services for older adults and their families through Vital Living health and wellness classes, caregiver support services, socialization activities, accessible transportation, and other programs. The organization's vision for the future includes intergenerational programming integrated into its main building, including fitness classes, social engagement, space for educational workshops, and health and wellness classes. COVID-19 has required the organization to broaden its notion of "safe space" to include cyberspace exercise programs and book clubs, and to use "old fashioned technology" like phone trees to keep older adults connected.

Visit their website to learn more:

**ESNS.ORG** 

"Connecting with Fourth Generation during the year they focused on services for aging Minnesotans was a wonderful experience for us. We were so grateful that young donors were thinking about this issue philanthropically, as there are less than six foundations in the state that specifically support aging services."

> PAULA REED NANCARROW, PROGRAM DEVELOPER

#### HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS AND ALUMNI:





### **Clare Eisenberg**

Fourth Generation helped me be more intentional and involved in my philanthropy. In Fourth Generation, rather than basing our philanthropy on our own ideas as funders about how to solve an issue (or even what the issue is or what causes it), we were able to hear directly from those most affected and most deeply engaged in trying to address it.

We also trust the organizations to make their own decisions about how to use their grants, whether the funding is for specific projects or general operating costs (and unlike many other granting organizations, we don't require extensive reporting about how they used the money). Being part of Fourth Generation has helped to inform my personal giving as well—while previously I might have stuck with giving to a big, wellknown 501(c)(3) organization, I'm now much more likely to donate to smaller local organizations that are deeply rooted in the community, or even contribute directly to individuals or initiatives through Venmo! I no longer view philanthropy as an "investment" in the sense that my contribution needs to have the return I'm promised when I make the donation; I trust the recipients' knowledge of how best to use the funds.



### **Tim Huebsch**

One of the first organizations I got involved with in the Twin Cities was Community Capital Alliance (Fourth Generation's original name). It created the foundation I have built upon ever since and has allowed me to be much more impactful and knowledgeable about the community. The people I met and the organizations I was exposed to in the community continue to be leaders that are helping us move forward today.

The experience helped me understand the integrated way in which our nonprofit organizations work together and create the systemic change that is needed to sustain long-term change.





### TUBMAN

In 2015, Fourth Generation awarded a grant to Tubman that supported legal services for older victims of crime in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties, including legal advocacy for victims in criminal court as well as Protection cases.

This work is important: Older adults are a particularly vulnerable group of victims who often need extra support and assistance navigating the legal system. Crimes against older adults can range from domestic abuse to financial exploitation, and when they are committed by someone known to the victim, they are less likely to be reported, and the risk of continued exploitation and abuse is higher. Tubman's legal advocates make it easier for older adults to navigate the complex legal system and avoid further victimization.

Tubman continues to serve people of all ages in its programs, and Fourth Generation's grant helped lay the groundwork to embed expertise in serving older victims within all its services rather than as a standalone project. During COVID-19, many services are provided remotely using technology, and some continue to be offered in person.

Visit their website to learn more:

#### **TUBMAN.ORG**

"We loved Fourth Generatoin's process and the interactions we had with the group. The members who came to our site visit were passionate, engaged, and asked smart questions. They were clearly committed to learning, leading, and contributing in a way that was all in service to the people Tubman serves."

JENNIFER POLZIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

#### **JOIN US!**











Do you care about local issues? Want to make a bigger impact in your community? Be part of Fourth Generation's hands-on experience in philanthropy. Learn more:

#### FOURTHGENFUND.ORG

