



February 2021

## A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Hope and Heal Fund Partners & Friends,

This past year was as unprecedented as it was tragic and chaotic. And, it didn't stop at midnight on December 31, 2020, as we saw with domestic terrorism and [insurrection at the U.S. Capitol](#). As challenging as 2020 was, it also was a year of inspiration and peaceful revolution here in California and across the country. At Hope and Heal Fund we stay positive believing that our best days are ahead of us and we stand by our communities who made their voices heard during the demonstrations over the summer and are actively pushing for systemic change in their cities and counties.



The resiliency of our team, our partners, and all of the community advocates pushing for real change is inspiring. In a challenging year, Hope and Heal accomplished a great deal and we are proud to share the highlights of 2020 which include stories of triumph and success all in the name of decreasing gun deaths, injuries, and trauma.

While we witnessed some of the [highest firearm homicide rates in the country](#), spikes in domestic violence, and firearm suicide, and an unprecedented surge in gun sales here in California and across the nation, we also saw the implementation of [The Bullet Points Project](#), a new tool for healthcare providers from our partners at the University of California Firearm Violence Research Center (UCFC). The site serves as an educational platform for clinicians to learn when and how to engage with patients about the risks of firearm access and how to intervene when a patient is at increased risk or in crisis. Given the massive surge in gun sales including [tens of thousands of first-time gun owners](#), this first-of-its-kind prevention approach will save lives. We were pleased to fund the creation of educational videos for the website in partnership with our partners at Blue Shield of California Foundation.

We saw the hard work of our community partners pay off when CalVIP funding was renewed for

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equities as they pertain to gun violence and we led and facilitated conversations on gun violence prevention and racial equity here in California and nationally. We did this through our writings, our webinars, and online conversations that included community and thought partners from around the country.

We know that the COVID pandemic has not only robbed people of their lives but has also put enormous strain on our critical community-based organizations up and down the state. We are proud to have launched the *COVID-19 Violence Prevention Emergency & Sustainability Fund*, which we share more on in our highlights below. We know gun violence and suicides are driven by many factors and conditions, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic - poverty, unemployment, isolation, hopelessness, and loss. The combination of the surge of firearm purchases with the emotional and physical consequences of a worldwide pandemic many Americans are experiencing is a troubling, and potentially deadly, combination.

Hope and Heal Fund did not let COVID, nor a surge in gun sales, slow our work down, in fact just the opposite. We have never been busier amplifying our voice, convening, and sharing our expertise. We continue to work tirelessly to elevate community-based solutions, ensuring racial equity is ingrained in all that we do.

Thank you to our incredible funding partners and individual donors; you make our work possible as we celebrated our 4th anniversary last December. Our team at Hope and Heal Fund is anxiously awaiting the day we can meet again with you in-person. Until then, we will continue to stay in touch via Zoom and calls. Be well. Be safe.

Onward,



**- Brian Malte, Executive Director**

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### Grantee Highlight

A new [report](#) released this week from UC Berkeley, Center for Global Healthy Cities and the School of Public Health, found that after two years of implementation of the Hope and Heal Funded program Advance Peace in Stockton, CA, there has been a 21% reduction in gun homicides and assaults. Hope and Heal Fund was the seed funder of this proven and effective strategy in Stockton and we

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### Staff Spotlight

We are pleased to share that in our staff member's own personal time, they continue to invest their expertise, time, and passions in the gun violence prevention space. Mary Kopp was asked to join the [WoMen Against Gun Violence](#) Board of Directors this past year, and Brian Malte is the current Chair of [States United to Prevent Gun Violence](#) an umbrella organization that represents 33 independent state gun

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operational backup, and opportunities for connection. We are very proud of our staff and their dedication to this field.

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## 2020 Accomplishments

### Five Year Roadmap and Strategy

Hope and Heal Fund spent months planning and finalizing our five-year roadmap in conjunction with our community partners, thought leaders, and collaborative partners. We finalized our plan last fall and included our impact statements, five-year goals, and sample investments. Please take a moment to review our [Roadmap](#).

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### Racial Equity Framework and Statement

Starting in the summer of 2019, Hope and Heal Fund committed itself to operate through a racially equitable framework to accompany our public health and community-based approaches. We support, advance, and focus our efforts with an understanding and acknowledgment of historical and ongoing racial inequities, with a commitment to actions that challenge, change, and prevent those inequities. Racial equity is a core value of our organization's vision, outlook, and philosophy, embedded in our structure, policies, and process.

We will:

- Ensure our organization operates and includes a racial equity lens in our strategic planning, policy development, fund disbursement, and priority setting process.
- Advance pathways to increase participation and leadership from community-based and community-led organizations which represent those most closely affected by gun violence and trauma, giving space to amplify their voices, needs, and stories.
- Actively challenge policies and other conditions that perpetuate systems of oppression and inequities within the gun violence movement.
- Ensure the just and equitable disbursement, availability, and access to resources.

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**STAY STRONG. STAY WELL.**  
COVID-19 VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
EMERGENCY & SUSTAINABILITY FUND

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Hope and Heal Fund launched the [COVID-19 Violence Prevention Emergency & Sustainability Fund](#) in April to support frontline workers and organizations working to prevent gun violence during this pandemic. Frontline workers and organizations were provided with the flexibility and ability to use the resources for the most pressing community needs, whether that be for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), healing and self-care services, funeral costs, victim services, and/or general operating support. Hope and Heal Fund was able to raise \$125,000 for this rapid response fund, largely supported by our partners Cedars-Sinai and Sierra Health Foundation. To date, we have given \$65,000 in grants to five organizations. A huge thanks to Nicholas Bloom from Cedars-Sinai and Marc Philpart from PolicyLink for serving on this fund's Advisory Committee and to our fiscal sponsor, New Venture Fund, for streamlining the grantmaking process.

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## Funding Partners

**A sincere thank you to our incredible funding partners.** Thank you for your commitment to our work at Hope and Heal Fund, as well as your passion and commitment to firearm suicide and gun violence prevention. We would not be able to accomplish our goals without you.

The Fund appreciates all previous and continued support from 15 foundation partners and over 30 individual donors. Our current foundation partners:

- Akonadi Foundation
- Blue Shield of California Foundation
- David Bohnett Foundation
- The California Endowment
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Cedars-Sinai
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Sierra Health Foundation
- Anonymous

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## Grantmaking Updates

### **Beyond Police Reform Think Tank**

Our Racial Equity Officer, Cuco Rodriguez, and Dr. Aquil Basheer from [The Brotherhood Unified for Independent Leadership Through Discipline \(BUILD\) Program](#) are co-facilitating a national think tank with criminal justice reform leaders to develop a roadmap for local communities in California and across the country to change public safety systems and go beyond basic police reform. There is a tremendous opportunity to impact those systems that perpetuate mass

sanctioned violence. Two virtual convenings were held in 2020 and this spring we will collectively produce the 'Black and Brown Paper' (roadmap). We thank the following organizations and partners are donating their time to participate:

- Project Kinship, Orange County
- Revolve Impact
- Berkeley Media Studies Group
- Latino Coalition San Diego
- USC School of Social Work
- Professional Community Intervention Training Institute
- National Compadres Network
- PolicyLink
- Barrios Unidos Fresno
- UC Davis
- WK Kellogg Foundation
- Ceres Policy Research
- CJAF

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### Community Hub

Last November we invested in a collaborative “community hub” model to convene key stakeholders to support comprehensive strategies to address all forms of gun violence. We chose Delano, CA as our first hub as it is geographically isolated and highly impacted by gun violence at rates three times the average for our state. Our approach, which includes key stakeholders like law enforcement, city officials, judges, non-profit providers, faith leaders, and school officials ensures that key community members impacted by gun violence have a say in what strategies the city should pursue. This multidisciplinary group of stakeholders exists in any impacted community and we will take what we learn to other communities adversely affected by the scourge of gun violence.

Our creative process, led by our Racial Equity Officer, Cuco Rodriguez, is intended to support ongoing sustained participation by all stakeholders but in particular community members. We plan to facilitate a three to four-month process in which data pertinent to gun violence and other health and well-being factors is presented to all participants, enabling stakeholders the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of models and experts working within the gun violence reduction field. Strategies will be decided in the key areas of prevention, intervention, gun access, and aftercare.

We thank our network partners who have agreed to support these efforts, including the City of San Jose, Advance Peace, and National Compadres Network.

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[Criminal Justice Reform \(NICJR\)](#) and [Inland Congregations United for Change](#) to host a virtual Town Hall event to share the results of NICJR's latest report on [The Cost of Gun Violence in San Bernardino](#) and the City's collaborative response to help reduce the human and financial toll of gun violence within the community. Speakers included San Bernardino Mayor's Office, City Council Members, the Police Chief, and representatives from local community-based organizations. The event was featured on [NPR](#), [Mercury News](#), and [Press-Enterprise](#).



### Narrative Change

We continue our important work with [Berkeley Media Studies Group \(BMSG\)](#). Two listening sessions were held in 2020 with experts from around the country on firearm suicide prevention and domestic violence. The in-person February listening session in Oakland on firearm suicide prevention gave BMSG great insight needed for message testing, and the virtual July convening was also very successful and focused on the intersection of intimate partner violence and guns with experts.



### Documentary: Gun Violence & Police Reform

Hope and Heal Fund provided a grant to the University of San Diego to supplement Hope and Heal's narrative change work. This grant supports a new documentary film on community gun violence efforts and is intended to promote filmmakers of color to tell authentic stories. The film, *Between the Lines*, will examine the Ferguson Effect and police-community relations by documenting interactions between law enforcement, community members, and activists with an eye toward understanding police use of force and gun violence more broadly. Moreover, *Between the Lines* explores the broader impact of police use of force by examining how it affects community perceptions of trust, the responses of local activists demanding police accountability, and the ways in which local police themselves have reacted to the public outcry following perceived police misconduct. The film is expected to be released in the summer of 2021.

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2020 was the year of amplifying our voices at Hope and Heal Fund. **We produced a webinar series *When Two Public Health Crises Collide* and were pleased to host four webinars as a part of this series.** The topics included the surge in gun sales, armed hate, and healing from trauma. Recordings from our webinars can be found on our YouTube channel: [Hope and Heal Fund](#).

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**We hope you were able to read the great blogs and op-eds we had the privilege to publish this year, in case you missed any, we've highlighted a few below:**

- [With surging gun sales comes increased risks](#), *CalMatters* (December 18, 2020)
  - [Five Years After San Bernardino Shooting: Why Our Work Is More Important Than Ever](#) (December 2, 2020)
  - [We Know What Truly Works for Gun Violence Prevention and Invest In It](#), *Youth Today* (October 5, 2020)
  - [Gun Violence Prevention as an Integral Part of Community Revitalization](#) (September 1, 2020)
  - [Systemic Changes to Public Safety: Going Beyond Police Reform](#) (July 20, 2020)
  - [We see you. We hear you. We support you.](#) (June 5, 2020)
  - [We are in this together – but not quite](#) (May 27, 2020)
  - [The Rise in Gun Sales Amid Covid-19 Should Propel Philanthropy to Act](#), *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* (April 22, 2020)
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**We were also invited as speakers at many prominent events this past year. Highlights included:**

### **JANUARY**

- Brian and Cuco presented to a CF Leads working group that included community foundations from across the country on the importance of gun violence prevention and racial equity.
- Hope and Heal Fund partnered with Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at the Empowerment Congress. Brian presented along with moderator Alex Johnson from The California Wellness Foundation, Fernando Rejón from Urban Peace Institute, and Andrea Welsing, Director, Office of Violence Prevention with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



In January, Hope and Heal Fund was honored to partner with Southern California Grantmakers for the program *Gun Violence: As a Public Health Issue & Successful Community-Based Strategies*. It was a robust discussion with over 50 attendees representing Southern California's philanthropic leaders.

## FEBRUARY

- Hope and Heal Fund was honored to be the presenting sponsor at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Veteran Affairs Conference, which focused on firearm suicide prevention strategies for veterans and service providers.

## JUNE

- Brian was honored to present with colleagues, Alex Johnson from The California Wellness Foundation and Amoretta Morris from Annie E. Casey Foundation, on a virtual panel discussion on the role and importance of addressing gun violence and racial equity as part of the annual Grantmakers In Health Annual Conference.

## SEPTEMBER

- Cuco gave the keynote address at the 10th Annual Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Summit (LASPN) and Hope and Heal Fund was pleased to be the presenting sponsor for

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- Cuco and Brian had the privilege of speaking at The HAVI's Annual Conference. Their workshop, *The Hierarchy of Human Value and Gun Violence*, explored the significant differences in societal, media, and resource response to gun violence across race and community.

## OCTOBER

- Brian was featured on a plenary panel at APHA's Annual Meeting entitled, *The Plague of Firearm Violence In America*. At the same conference, Cuco presented on a breakout panel entitled, *A Community Trauma and Resilience Approach to the Triple Pandemic: COVID-19, Racial Violence and the Economic Downturn*.

For more information about the Hope and Heal Fund, please visit our website at [HopeAndHealFund.org](https://HopeAndHealFund.org). Please also follow us on Twitter at [@HopeandHealFund](https://twitter.com/HopeandHealFund) for the latest updates on our work to prevent gun violence in California.



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