



A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Hope and Heal Fund Partners & Friends,

On behalf of our team, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. I hope you and your family are healthy and finally able to spend time in person with one another.



*In January 2022, the Hope and Heal Fund team met in person for the first time since 2020!
(pictured left to right, Brian, Ally, Mary, Cuco)*

Another unprecedented year has passed us by, filled with many challenges but also tremendous opportunities for progress.

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and breathe in hopefulness. We have vaccines readily available for everyone over the age of five and the number of new COVID cases continues to decline. Our state and federal governments are prioritizing funding for community-based violence intervention, the demand for racial equity across all sectors remains strong and community leaders across the state are now able to once again do their amazing work that requires face-to-face interactions. I remain hopeful, but yet, we cannot overlook the incredibly deadly year that was 2021.

Last year was the [deadliest year in gun deaths](#) in quite some time - surpassing even the incredibly high levels of 2020. Shootings have returned to levels not seen in decades as the number of guns being recovered by police also hit record highs last year. While major cities throughout the U.S. are suffering, we cannot continue to overlook the devastation that gun violence brings to smaller, sometimes isolated cities and communities up and down our state. Behind each gun death or injury statistic, there is an immense amount of trauma that continues to be inflicted on families, friends, and communities as a result of the increase in gun violence. We should all be prioritizing what Hope and Heal Fund is referring to as “after-care”. Just because violence “stops” does not mean the community or families walk away unscathed.

[Gun purchases accelerated](#) in the U.S. at an unprecedented rate, with an alarming 5.4 million people buying and bringing firearms into homes that had not previously owned guns. This is cause for concern - unsecured guns in the home are a risk to the families that live there and the community at large. For example, we know 85% of guns used in school shootings were from the shooter’s home or the home of a relative. We also know that a gun in the home increases the risk of death by firearm suicide by four times. According to a recent study, not only did gun sales surge across the U.S., approximately half of all new gun owners were female and 40% were people of color.

Despite the increase in gun homicides throughout our state and the surge in gun sales; we know there are a multitude of effective strategies that have worked to drastically cut gun deaths, injuries, and trauma. During the last two years of the COVID pandemic, Hope and Heal Fund has set in motion and planted seeds for widespread systemic change and we continue to elevate community-based solutions that work. Hope and Heal Fund is at the center of making a real impact on gun violence and firearm suicide prevention. We are leading the way as we take a racial equity and systems approach to gun violence and firearm suicide prevention within a framework of prevention, intervention, and trauma aftercare.

Thank you to our funding partners, thought partners, the advocates fighting for equity and change, the experts and researchers pushing for more data, and the community leaders working tirelessly to improve all living conditions in their communities. We see you, we thank you, we would not be where we are today without you.

I look forward to hopefully seeing many of you face-to-face in 2022.

Onward,

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- **Brian Malte, Executive Director**

Grantee Highlight

Hope and Heal Fund grantee, **Berkeley Media Studies Group** released [Understanding violence and prevention during a pandemic: California news about guns, gun violence, and firearm suicide, 2020-2021 in October 2021](#). In addition to the larger media narrative change project that is currently underway, we knew it was important to conduct a subset media analysis given discussions about violence took on new importance as the global COVID-19 pandemic spurred historic increases in gun sales and protests against police brutality and structural racism put police violence and officer-involved shootings in the spotlight.

Staff Spotlight

Our team continues to invest their own personal time, expertise, talent, and passions in the gun violence prevention movement. **Mary Kopp** continues to serve on the Board of Directors for [Women Against Gun Violence](#). **Cuco Rodriguez** had a very busy year, providing expertise on racial equity. Cuco participated in New Venture Fund's *Race Equity Diversity Inclusion* workgroup and in the Northern California Funders Race Equity Program in support of equity issues across philanthropy. We are very proud of our staff and their dedication to this field.

2021 Accomplishments



Hope and Heal Fund celebrated five years of hard work, growth, and success this past December. A huge thank you to all who wished us well and celebrated with us on social media. We were “over the moon” with the support, praise, and love that was shared with us on December 2.

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conferences and meetings in person. **Cuco and Brian attended the Hispanics in Philanthropy annual conference** in person as we continue to build relationships with Latino-focused organizations, media outlets, and philanthropic organizations. Hope and Heal Fund will focus efforts on Spanish-language resources and culturally appropriate messages in 2022. Stay tuned for more on this.



Thanks to a grant from Bleeker Street Productions, **Hope and Heal Fund produced a film discussion guide for the critically acclaimed film, [Mass](#)** written and directed by Fran Kranz. The purpose of this film discussion guide is to spark conversations around gun violence to be utilized at future screenings, conferences, and convenings and to help influence and educate those in the creative space working with elements of violence, trauma, equity, and firearms. Last fall, Cuco and Brian traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the screening. Cuco was joined on a powerhouse panel after the screening with actors Jason Isaacs and Ann Dowd, and Director Fran Kranz. *Mass* focuses on the impact of a mass shooting and the interactions between parents of a victim and parents of a school shooter.

Hope and Heal Fund has also supported the City of Long Beach as they navigate the development of a comprehensive gun violence strategy. Specifically, Hope and Heal Fund staff have been supporting key areas related to equity and systems change. Earlier in 2021, Cuco was also asked to participate in the National ESRI User Conference on a panel with Unidos US and the NAACP that focused on race equity and data.

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CHILDREN UNDER FIRE

AN AMERICAN CRISIS



reporter, John Woodrow Cox to discuss his newly released book titled [Children Under Fire: An American Crisis](#). The conversation centered on the psychological impact that persistent gun violence has on communities plagued by unrelenting gun violence. If you did not have a chance to join us you can watch the recording [here](#).

We also welcomed two new funding partners, Kaiser Permanente and CARESTAR Foundation. In partnership with Kaiser Permanente, Hope and Heal Fund is working to build a network of gun violence prevention resources and networks in the Northern California region. The initial focus of this project is to increase capacity among community violence networks starting with precise and real-time geographic gun death and injury information utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping. Our intent is to increase the capacity of local organizations to understand, collect, validate and document local data related to gun violence and firearm suicide. This project will also allow us to develop local IT platforms with the capacity to document data beyond Northern CA cities and networks. The intent is to replicate these efforts across the state so that communities can tap into real-time gun violence data to focus efforts and resources on the most impacted areas of their city.

Hope and Heal Fund **continues to be tapped** for expertise on gun violence prevention, trauma, aftercare, and racial equity. Some of our media highlights are shared below.

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 dedication to preventing gun violence and firearm suicides. We would not be able to accomplish our goals without you.

We were thrilled to have welcomed two new funding partners this past year, thank you to Kaiser Permanente and CARESTAR Foundation for joining Hope and Heal Fund and supporting our work.

The Fund appreciates all previous and continued support from our foundation partners and individual donors. **Thank you to the foundation partners that supported us in 2021:**

- Akonadi Foundation
- Blue Shield of California Foundation

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- The California Wellness Foundation
 - CARESTAR Foundation
 - Cedars Sinai
 - Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
 - Heising-Simons Foundation
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Sierra Health Foundation
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Steering Committee

A huge thank you to the nine wonderful individuals that served on our 2020-2021 Steering Committee. We appreciate your time, expertise, and guidance and it was a pleasure to work together as a group. Thank you. Please visit our website to see our [2022-2023 Steering Committee members](#).

- Nicholas Bloom, Program Director, The Cedars-Sinai Accelerator, Cedars-Sinai
 - Matt Cervantes, Director of Health Programs, Sierra Health Foundation
 - Iris Garcia, Program Officer, Akonadi Foundation
 - Will Ing, Program Manager, Neighborhoods, The California Endowment
 - Alex Johnson, Interim Vice President of Programs, The California Wellness Foundation
 - Holly Kreider, Program Officer, Heising-Simons Foundation
 - Jodi Ravel, Program Officer, CARESTAR Foundation
 - Steve Sposato, President and CEO, SAS Consulting, Inc.
 - Richard Thomason, Policy Director, Blue Shield of California Foundation
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2021 Grantmaking Updates

Cuco Rodriguez, Chief Equity and Program Officer, and our consultants at Resolute Associates completed the template/toolkit for an **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** that will soon be shared with local community advocates across the state. As previously shared, the goal of the EOP is to tap into existing county systems that should be addressing all forms of gun violence and firearm suicides comprehensively and equitably. By working with an already existing system, we have the opportunity to institutionalize a standardized approach to reducing gun violence in communities, much like counties already do for wildfires and homelessness. We are currently working with community leaders in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties to educate them on EOP so residents will ultimately advocate for its implementation. Thus far, we are finding a very strong interest among community residents in both counties and we are hopeful that we'll collectively gain traction during 2022.

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collected over the last two years from credible messengers across California and nationally. After the message testing is completed this summer, Berkeley Media Studies Group will develop a media training toolkit with messages that best resonate as it relates to preventing firearm suicides, domestic violence, and community violence. This will involve going back to the very communities where the messages were collected for in-person and virtual trainings.

Hope and Heal Fund completed the first-ever **Community Hub** in Delano, CA. Cuco led the process, convening with community residents from Delano, showcasing successful models of gun violence prevention strategies from across the state. Hope and Heal Fund is helping local residents to leverage philanthropic resources to unlock local public resources to fund the collective and collaborative gun violence prevention plan for the city. We are planning to invest in community hubs in more impacted cities across California in the coming year, and our hope is that we'll be able to conduct these hubs in person. Stay tuned for the next steps in Delano and with other community hubs.

Beyond Police Reform is a project that brought together a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders from across the United States working in the gun violence or related fields to develop a white paper to identify key areas of opportunity to create changes in systems that contribute to violence and criminalization. Essentially, the group focused on system areas that go beyond police reform and included other systems that contribute to a legacy of criminalization in communities of color while reducing a sense of safety and security. While COVID and other competing priorities delayed the completion of this paper, we are back on track to complete this project within the coming weeks.

Thanks to the partnership and support from Blue Shield of California Foundation, we provided funds to the **University of California Firearm Violence Research Center** to develop training and educational videos for health clinicians that provide them with the knowledge and tools they need to discuss the risks of firearm access with their patients and to intervene when someone is at increased risk. Four [episodes](#) have been released to date, for more information on the project, please visit the [BulletPoints Project](#).

Amplifying Our Voice

We hope you were able to read the great [blogs](#) and op-eds that were published this year, as well as tune into our interviews. In case you missed any, we've highlighted a few below:

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with Mike Gasson on *London Live*, where he discussed how we approach gun violence in the wake of yet another mass shooting and why the focus on everyday gun violence needs the same media attention and financial resources as mass shootings. [Listen to the interview.](#) (March 25, 2021)

Inside Philanthropy

Hope and Heal Fund was featured as one of eight funders supporting gun violence prevention in [Inside Philanthropy](#), the only state-based donor collaborative included in the article. This helps to demonstrate how Hope and Heal Fund is leading the way in gun violence and firearm suicide prevention with a specific focus on racial equity, systems-change, public health, and community-based approaches to address this epidemic. (March 30, 2021)



[Cuco's interview with Univision Noticias](#) about the school shooting in Michigan (In Spanish) (December 1, 2021)



Op-Ed by Brian Malte in *CalMatters* [How to Address California's Gun Violence Problem](#) (December 2, 2021)

San Francisco Chronicle

Brian Malte quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, [Gun Violence in Oakland Has Become a "Pandemic Within the Pandemic."](#) [Here's what's going on](#) (December 3, 2021)

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- Cuco Rodriguez, Hope and Heal's Chief Equity Officer, spoke at the [National ESRI User Conference](#) to discuss how mapping, analyzing, and automation can help operationalize equity. The audience appreciated his insight and expertise as he provided strategies for implementing a racial equity framework across institutions.
- In August, Brian Malte joined Lois Beckett from *The Guardian*, Assemblymember Phil Ting, and UC Davis' Dr. Garen J. Wintemute on Zócalo Public Square to discuss "[Can California Help America Reduce Gun Violence?](#)"
- Brian participated in a national roundtable coordinated by the [Coalition to Stop Gun Violence](#) to develop a racial equity framework for gun violence prevention.
- Hope and Heal hosted its first "[Twitter Q&A](#)" session. Managed by our summer social media intern, Diana Guardado, the chat featured Executive Director, Brian Malte and Chief Equity Officer, Cuco Rodriguez responding to questions from our Twitter community about efforts to prevent gun deaths and trauma. We were pleased to engage and interact with over 160 people on Twitter during this Q&A, encouraging followers to see gun violence as preventable not inevitable.

For more information about the Hope and Heal Fund, please visit our website at 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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