

PULSE
OF THE FOOD MOVEMENT

Celebrating Grassroots Champions

Greetings!

We hope you're enjoying some relaxing and fun time off this Summer with family or friends!

In this month's issue we are highlighting ROC's commitment to power building with CBOs (Community-Based Organizations) and celebrating our **grassroots champions**. Without their support we could not exist. For their tireless and committed support for our various projects, political campaigns and rallies, we would like to say **THANK YOU!**

**THANK
YOU**

Most recently, we heavily relied on the help of two organizations that we introduced in previous issues, but would like to mention and thank them again: Cultiva La Salud, Fresno, and United Parents & Students, Los Angeles. They organized and helped us generate dozens of participants at rallies in the Central Valley, Los Angeles and Sacramento for the Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund. I would also like to mention two other organization that also participated in the success of these rallies: Seeds of Hope LA and Mi Familia Vota, Modesto.

CIELO - Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo



Meet the CIELO team

CIELO is an Indigenous women-led non-profit organization that works jointly with Indigenous communities residing in Los Angeles. CIELO is a link, a resource, and a liaison for migrant Indigenous communities residing in Los Angeles.

Cielo was one of our key partners in the 2020/21 Let's Feed Los Angeles County Covid emergency feeding program funded by the County of Los Angeles.

Their fight for social justice includes ending gender-based violence, providing

language access rights, cultural preservation, and reproductive justice.

We salute their effective actions to serve the indigenous communities of Los Angeles. See [this 3 min video](#) on their successful work to feed thousands of indigenous people in LA County at the height of the pandemic.



CCEJN - Central California Environmental Justice Network

CCEJN works to end environmental racism, achieve economic justice, and health equity through sustainable regional solutions.



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK**

Their mission is to empower communities and secure their children's future by eliminating negative environmental impacts in low-income and communities of color.

ROC partners with CCEJN in our work with the [Food & Farming Resilience Coalition](#), the [California Food & Farming Network](#) and our expansion of the [Achieving Resilience Communities](#) (ARC) project in Kern County. We respect and appreciate the strategic thinking, commitment to policy change and deep community trust that CCEJN brings to each effort they undertake.

A ROCStar Advocate



Red Jen Ford, Certified Holistic Health Coach, Corporate Wellness Consultant & Educator

Jen is one of our newsletter subscribers and ROCstar advocates who often heeds our calls to action by signing petitions, sending emails, contacting legislators, and posting our action alerts on her Facebook page. She contacted us recently to let us know of some opportunities to engage us and others in this type of work. Given

her exemplary level of support, I asked her, **“what would be a good way to engage more average citizens in food and nutrition related**

advocacy?" Here her response that includes some great ideas:

- I have shared your calls-to-action on Facebook.
- I used to write a seasonal food column where I tried to make folks aware of the gift of our local farmers, but also of food-systems issues e.g., GMO labeling.
- Perhaps we could record a Zoom call together to showcase the importance of the work you're doing @ ROC, to connect it to the nutrition/policy work I'm studying, and to help people understand the power they have to take action to ensure a "healthy, equitable, and resilient food system."
- I think that people often take food for granted and don't consider that it really touches everything – environment/climate change, social justice, health equity. While some are starting to wake up, they need to be informed about what's at stake and what they can do about it.
- At my next farm-to-table event, I could include in my marketing that a portion of proceeds will be donated to ROC - that way I'd be raising awareness, opening a dialogue, and also putting my money where my mouth is, so to speak.

We can't thank Red Jen enough for going the extra mile, for writing such a thoughtful email to us, and for her generous contributions and ideas on how to engage more people in food, farming and health advocacy.

Please send us **YOUR** thoughts on these topics and **YOUR** ideas on how to get more folks engaged in healthy food & farming advocacy! Email us at mail@rootsofchange.org

Update on the Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund

Governor Newsom Again Fails to Support the Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund

For a second consecutive year, Governor Newsom has declined to invest in a Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund to support transformative community-driven change to reduce health inequities and advance racial justice. Despite strong backing from the Legislature, whose members understand the power of direct investment in community-based organizations (CBOs), our request was denied. [**READ MORE**](#)

Meet Our Two New Team Members: Dr. Raissa Sorgho and Lesley Kroupa, JD, MS, RD

Dr. Raissa Sorgho,
Director of Global Nutrition &

Lesley Kroupa, JD, MS, RD,
Policy Specialist

Partnerships



Dr. Sorgho leads the design, development, and execution of three global human-centered food and nutrition programs in sub-Saharan Africa, southeast Asia, and Latin America. She investigates international policy and program application to the USA context to advance key markets, support sustainable agriculture, and protect the health of agricultural workers. Furthermore, Dr. Sorgho manages partnership growth, client development, and oversees the alignment of leadership strategies with health equity principles. Dr. Sorgho's international experience and expertise will guide ROC's expansion of work to include international projects related to nutrition and regenerative agriculture.



Lesley serves as the Policy Specialist for Roots of Change and the Center for

Wellness and Nutrition at the Public Health Institute. She is responsible for identifying and analyzing policy issues related to nutrition, health, and regenerative agriculture at the local, state, and federal level using both a health equity and food system framework. She will be advocating for policies in Sacramento and Washington DC. Previously, she was the Interim Deputy Director at the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University. Before joining the public health field, Lesley spent 11 years practicing law in New York City at Cooley LLP and as in-house counsel.

For more background information on our new team members, please visit the [team section](#) on the ROC website.

Thank you,

Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

For updates on the array of ROC projects, hit links below:

- [Current Projects](#)
- [2022 Policy Work](#)
- [Flipping the Table Podcasts](#)

Please support our work by hitting [this link](#). Roots of Change is a program of the Public Health Institute.



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