

Contigo

FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

AN INITIATIVE OF OUR FUND FOUNDATION



THE CONTIGO FUND IS
EXCEPTIONALLY GRATEFUL FOR
THE GENEROUS FUNDING AND
LEADERSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING
PARTNERS, WHICH HAVE MADE OUR
MISSION POSSIBLE:



FORD
FOUNDATION



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



W.K.
KELLOGG
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ARCUS
FOUNDATION



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation



EXECUTIVES' ALLIANCE
FOR BOYS & MEN OF COLOR



OUR FUND
FOUNDATION
PEOPLE WHO CARE • CAUSES THAT MATTER

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Marco Antonio Quiroga
Program Director

May 2017

Dear friends,

Shortly after the Pulse Nightclub shooting on June 12, 2016, as Central Florida grieved in shock and struggled to reel back from the horrific event that had taken place, a visionary group of foundations across the nation recognized the extreme pressures that would be placed upon the region's nonprofits serving the targeted communities. Without immediate support, some would likely run out of resources to help those targeted by the act of hate, particularly LGBTQ and Latinx individuals, immigrants, and people of color.

This coalition quickly set out to be an agent of change and pulled their resources together so they could be more impactful. To lead the ground efforts, the coalition relied on Our Fund Foundation, Florida's only philanthropic community foundation distinctly working to advance LGBTQ causes. Our Fund wisely recognized that to be effective and transformative in its grant making, it had to bring to the decision-making table those who've been impacted by Pulse, who knew first hand what the needs were. It was through that proactive and thoughtful response that the Contigo Fund as an initiative was born.

Almost a year later, the Contigo Fund is diligently working to help the community heal and get stronger every day. We are focused on our mission to develop and continuously improve on a philanthropic participatory model that is accessible, empowering, and replicable while funding existing and emerging agencies working at the intersection of LGBTQ equity and racial justice.

The gifts received have enabled us to distribute to date more than \$480,000 in grants among 15 groups to lead these efforts to heal, educate and empower LGBTQ and Latinx, immigrant, and people of color communities. Further, through our unique philanthropic model, we comprehensively support our grantees' vision with resources, training, and opportunities to build community with each other.

Because the need is so great, we plan on announcing yet another distribution in mid-2017 near the one-year remembrance to honor the memory of those that were taken from us and in time for Pride. It is our hope that our work will continue to inspire and strengthen our community.

Having myself experienced family separation through deportation, poverty, unstable housing and homelessness in Orlando, I deeply understand the tremendous odds facing the communities distinctly impacted by the tragedy. Pulse exposed and exacerbated needs and voids in our communities that have historically existed. It will take time and hard work to meet those needs and fill those voids, but I trust that this report will demonstrate that we are making tremendous progress.

Rest assured that our commitment is unwavering. The transformation has begun and it is unstoppable. Together, let's keep Orlando Strong and Orlando United! Estamos Contigo - We're With You!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marco Quiroga'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

HOW WE EMERGED

— RISING FROM TRAGEDY —

Orlando was showered by a national and international outpour of compassion following the Pulse Nightclub tragedy. A GoFundMe campaign effort was launched to facilitate on-line giving which later merged with other local and national efforts to create the OneOrlando Fund that generated over \$30 million to assist victims' families and survivors.

While this unprecedented outpouring of financial resources filled immediate needs, the Pulse tragedy created and exposed a sudden and critical burden on Central Florida's underdeveloped non-profit infrastructure.

Recognizing this, a **national network of foundations** joined forces in a show of unity and compassion recognizing the need to support both in the recovery and future empowerment of the region. By pooling together their resources, accumulating nearly **\$1.5 million**, it was understood that together they could make a lasting and transformational impact on Central Florida and the disenfranchised communities that were most affected by the Pulse shooting.

The challenges in front of them were great. They recognized that the region's established nonprofits and emerging nonprofits would be pushed beyond their limits and capacities to provide services to those distinctively impacted by the tragedy. The attack targeted LGBTQ and Latinx individuals, immigrants, and people of color, all of them marginalized and underserved communities for which philanthropic support and nonprofit infrastructure.

Further, and based on its experience working in social movements, this coalition knew that many of the grassroots groups that had formed in the aftermath of Pulse would eventually –and likely sooner than later– run out of resources. The coalition was also aware of the fact that emerging organizations representing the underserved communities that were distinctively impacted would have a more difficult time accessing resources than established ones. Thus, it pulled together to create a philanthropic vehicle that was accessible to both new and mature groups, working to support medium to long-term initiatives to help heal, empower and lift up the affected communities. **Our Fund Foundation**, a LGBTQ community foundation in South Florida, was chosen to manage the funds because of its unique expertise and long history as the state's only foundation dedicated solely to LGBTQ causes.





Our Fund Foundation had the wisdom to understand that for this process to be meaningful, impactful and successful, it had to be informed and led by the local community. It had to bring to the decision-making table those directly impacted by the tragedy. Taking all of these into consideration, a need assessment was conducted to determine how to best move forward, which gave life to the Contigo Fund.

The Contigo Fund ("Contigo" means "with you" in Spanish) hit the ground running. Its grant committee, comprised by Central Florida business, religious, and community leaders, as well as members of the LGBTQ and Latinx communities, and direct and indirect survivors of Pulse, quickly went to work. Contigo developed an emergency Rapid Response Fund, which issued two grants in the amount of \$15,000 each to Two Spirit Health Services, which enabled it to provide LGBTQ and linguistically competent mental health services to Pulse survivors, their families, and the broader affected communities, and QLatinx, a youth-led racial, social, and gender justice organization that emerged from the tragedy to create community and leadership development opportunities for those most affected from the LGBTQ Latinx community.

In March, Contigo bestowed over \$450,000 to 15 agencies advancing LGBTQ equity and racial justice causes in Orlando and across Central Florida. The money went to programs that offer mental health counseling, leadership development for transgender women of color, anti-bullying education, and capacity building support for Latinx individuals, Muslims and African Americans who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer. The grants also helped launch the "Orlando 49" project to thoughtfully teach public school students about the act of hate at Pulse and expand their knowledge of LGBTQ history and movements.

In light of current social and political events, our purposeful work is more crucial and we are well prepared and positioned to deliver results. We will continue to focus on medium-term to long-term solutions to bring meaningful, transformative, and lasting change to Pulse-affected communities in Orlando and across Central Florida. We will remain alert, responsive and nimble to the needs of these historically marginalized LGBTQ people of color communities - those most at-risk of hate and violence - through our Rapid Response Fund and continue granting awards semi annually in the winter and summer to advance our efforts to create and strengthen systems of support and empowerment for these underserved communities.





WHO WE ARE



Contigo Fund is a community-driven grantmaking initiative and a nationally leading philanthropic model born out of the Pulse Nightclub tragedy. Its mission is to support LGBTQ equity and racial justice causes by funding organizations working to heal, educate and empower LGBTQ and Latinx individuals, immigrants, and people of color, as well as those working to end all forms of bigotry.

For Contigo, that means grantmaking that supports projects and efforts that center around the most marginalized communities. We support organizations in their efforts to support and assist those affected by the tragedy of Pulse and to build bridges connecting all of Central Florida's diverse community groups, including ethnic and religious segments. We bring together those directly and deeply impacted to make the decisions on the best strategies because they understand what their communities need most. It is this way, together as one, that homophobia, transphobia, racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination will be defeated.

No matter the color of their skin, the language they speak, the faith they practice, or the person they love, the Contigo Fund is committed to supporting the resilience of those living at the intersection of these marginalized identities and building on their power. Through unity and love and as one community, we are creating a sanctuary where all are welcomed and affirmed.

ASSESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS

The need for services for the LGBTQ and Latinx communities in Central Florida is great. These are groups that have a long history of being marginalized from power. Whereas Pulse was the worst act of violence in U.S. history against LGBTQ and Latinx individuals, violence against them in Central Florida is not uncommon or new. Just a few months before the massacre in Pulse, Mercedes Success, a transgender Black woman, was murdered in Haines City, just an hour south of Orlando. This is not an isolated case. According to the [National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs](#) (NCAVP), 20-25% of lesbian and gay people experience hate crimes within their lifetimes.

Orange County, where Orlando is located, has an ordinance that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. However, Florida lacks explicit protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity at the state level even though more than 4 percent of its population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, making it the state with the 13th highest percentage of LGBT adults. Marriage equality only came to the state through the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and the state, in addition to employment, does not protect LGBTQ people from discrimination as it pertains to housing, education, healthcare, or public accommodations.

According to the Florida Attorney General, hate crimes based on sexual orientation currently account for 22 percent of all hate crimes, surpassing religion as the second highest category. Race is still the most common motivation. When taking into account the size of the targeted communities, LGBT Floridians, and in particular LGBT people of color in Florida, are at the highest risk of being targeted with a hate crime.

Florida law provides increased penalties for hate crimes based on sexual orientation and has been interpreted to include hate crimes targeting the transgender community as well. The statutes, however, lack explicit protections for gender identity and expression.

As a consequence, the lives of LGBTQ and immigrant communities in Central Florida are shaped by a climate of hostile policies and almost nonexistent legal protections. In addition to these forces, communities throughout Florida are challenged by the stresses of poverty rates which are higher than the national average and the lingering effects of the housing crisis, during which Florida had the highest rate of foreclosures in the country in 2012. With regard to education and healthcare, Florida ranks among the worst states in the country for per-capita student expenditures, according to [U.S. Census Bureau data](#), and has the second-highest percentage of uninsured adults in the country as reported by [Kaiser News](#) and the [Miami Herald](#).

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THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

More than four percent of Florida's adult population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, making it the state with the 13th highest percentage of LGBT adults. Forty-one percent of the state's LGBT population is non-white, including 18 percent Hispanic and 14 percent African American. Florida's LGBT population is more likely than its non-LGBT population to face challenges such as unemployment, lack of health insurance, and low income.

- 12 percent of Florida's LGBT population is unemployed, compared to a 10 percent unemployment rate for the state's non-LGBT population.
- 29 percent of Florida's LGBT population has a household income of less than \$24,000, compared to 27 percent for the state's non-LGBT population.
- 22 percent of Florida's LGBT population lacks health insurance, compared to an 18-percent uninsured rate for the non-LGBT population.



While county-level data is not available for the overall LGBT population, census data show that several counties in Central Florida have high concentrations of same-sex couples. In particular, Orange County where the City of Orlando is located has 3,833 same-sex couples, or 9 per 1,000 households, ranking it third in the state of Florida for its percentage of same-sex couples.

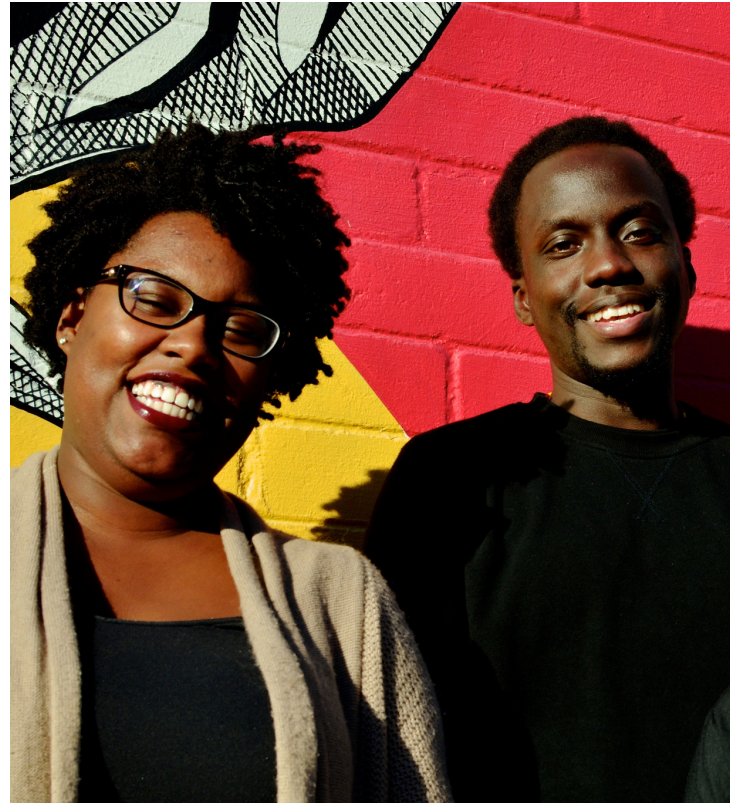
According to 2011 U.S. Census estimates, more than 4.3 million Hispanics live in Florida; only two states (California and New York) have larger Hispanic populations. Nearly one-quarter of Florida's population is Hispanic, and more than eight percent of all Hispanics in the U.S. live in Florida.

- The median age for Hispanics in Florida is 33.
- The average median annual earnings for a Hispanic in Florida is \$20,900 with nearly one in five Hispanics in Florida living below federal poverty levels.
- One in three Hispanics in the state do not have health insurance.

In Orange County specifically, more than 320,000 Hispanics make up 27 percent of the county's total population. Orange County's Hispanic population more than doubled between 2000 and 2011. Osceola County, home to the town of Kissimmee, where the majority of Pulse victims resided, is where more than 125,000 Hispanics live, who make up 46 percent of the county's population. The Hispanic population of that county grew by more than 150 percent between 2000 and 2011.

Other Central Florida counties also have significant Hispanic populations: Polk County has more than 110,000 Hispanics, which make up 18 percent of the population; Lake County has nearly 38,000 Hispanics, which make up 13 percent of the population; and Seminole County has more than 75,000 Hispanics, which make up 18 percent of the population. Between 2000 and 2011, all of these counties saw their Hispanic populations grow by 85 to 200 percent. This continues to be trend, a 2016 report from Pew Research Center shows, and it is driven by the Puerto Rican migration to the mainland.

Because of the island's ongoing economic crisis, about 1,000 Puerto Rican families relocate to Florida every month, according to the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration regional office in Kissimmee, which keeps tabs on newly arrived and what services they may need.



WHO WE HAVE FUNDED

GRANTS TO HEAL, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER PULSE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Supporting the intersection of LGBTQ Equity and Racial Justice

SERVICES FOCUSED ON HEALING FOR...

FAMILIES OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF PULSE



Freedom Ride

Freedom Ride

Freedom Ride is a nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives and experiences of individuals with disabilities and trauma through therapeutic horse riding and related activities in the Central Florida area. We are thrilled to award a grant to Freedom Ride toward their **Equine Assisted Therapy for Pulse-affected Communities**. Funds will cover cost of an Equine Specialist, a Mental Health Counselor and one or more horses providing 25 Pulse-affected community members a one-hour equine assisted therapy session once a week for 4 weeks - individual or group sessions. Cost will also cover cost of an open house introduction to Equine Assisted Psychotherapy for community leaders.

BROADER PULSE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



Two Spirit Health Services, Inc.

Two Spirit Health Services is a nonprofit health organization, where LGBTQ people can go to get primary care, mental health, substance abuse, transgender-specific healthcare, and other wellness services in an environment that is culturally competent. We are thrilled to award a grant to Two Spirit Health Services to expand their **Spanish Language Mental Health Counseling**. Funds will go towards hiring a full-time mental health counselor who is fluent in English and Spanish and LGBTQ culturally competent for a 12-month period - counselor will provide services to Pulse-affected Latinx and LGBTQ Latinx community members that were directly and indirectly impacted at no cost to them at both Two Spirit Health Services and at Proyecto Somos Orlando.

YOUTH OF COLOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Zebra Coalition, Inc.

Zebra Coalition is a network of organization which provide services to LGBTQ and all youth ages 13-24. The coalition assists young people facing homelessness, bullying, isolation from their families, and physical, sexual and drug abuse with individualized programs to guide them to recovery and stability. We are thrilled to award a grant to Zebra Coalition for a **Mental Health Counseling Expansion into Osceola County**. Funds will go towards hiring a licensed mental health counselor to provide youth-focused culturally and linguistically appropriate services that include individual and family counseling with linkages and referrals in the Latinx Community impacted by the Pulse Tragedy. Additionally, counselor will implement and facilitate the Kaleidoscope group for transgender, gender variant, and gender expansive youth with linkages for referrals to access the continuum of Zebra Coalition services as well as facilitate support groups for youth based on identified needs, gender identification, healthy living, and finding support.

INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON EDUCATION FOR...

SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS ON LGBTQ ISSUES



Equality Florida Institute, Inc.

Equality Florida Institute, Inc is the nonprofit educational charity arm of the largest civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's LGBTQ community through education and coalition building. We are thrilled to award a grant to Equality Florida that will contribute toward launching their Central Florida Safe and Healthy Schools program. Funds will be used to complement the hire of a **Central Florida Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator** which will be dedicated to launching a program focused on affecting large-scale, systematic change across the entire Orange, Seminole, and Osceola County Public Schools districts, supervised by statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Program Director.

"The Pulse tragedy impacted our community deeply, especially with so many victims being of Hispanic background. One of the victims was from our own farmworking community of Apopka. The grant we received helps us to continue defending immigrant rights, promote inclusion and create a committee comprised of LGBTQ individuals and their families to provide input in how we can be more responsive to their needs in the farmworking community."

Tirso Moreno, General Coordinator
Farmworkers Association of Florida

YOUTH OF COLOR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Holocaust Museum Resource & Education Center of Florida



The Holocaust Museum Education and Resource Center of Florida is a nonprofit focused on building an inclusive community in the Orlando area through exhibits, programs, initiatives, and educational programs centered around the events of the Holocaust. We are thrilled to award a grant to the Holocaust Center to expand their **Upstanders: Standing up to Bullying Initiative**. Funds will be used to provide the underserved immigrant and Latinx community in Apopka with curriculum utilizing Holocaust education to prevent bullying and bias motivated by differences in sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, religious belief and other factors in a multi-phase program that follows students through 6th and 7th grades at all 3 Orange County Public Middle Schools in that region. Grant also will cover a stipend for a Notre Dame Mission Volunteer - AmeriCorps member that will be assigned to the project through the Hope Community Center to work with school personnel on issues of bullying and harassment with a focus on supporting LGBTQ youth.

LGBTQ YOUTH ACROSS CENTRAL FLORIDA



Stonewall National Museum & Archives

Stonewall National Museum & Archives promotes understanding through preserving and sharing the proud culture of LGBTQ people and their significant role in American society. We are thrilled to award a grant to launch the **Orlando 49 Curriculum as part of the Stonewall National Education Project**. Funds will cover cost of creating and distributing a comprehensive curriculum that serves as a teaching tool contextualizing the Pulse hate crime in history and explores its impact on communities. The important lessons learned from the tragedy within this curriculum will be shared with students across all 17 Central Florida county public schools districts - including a 6 piece visual exhibition, accompanying curriculum, and online interactive resource guide -- curriculum and displays will be available in both English and Spanish. Market study events will be done in Orlando where community members, educators and students will be invited to view the project and provide feedback for final production and distribution.

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH



Building US, Inc.

Building US is a nonprofit interfaith coalition that serves to strengthen communities and increase inclusion and connection through conversation and education that engage the diversity of the human spirit and inspire deeper understanding, acceptance, and cooperation - personal, organizational, and cultural. We are thrilled to award a grant to Building US that will be used to launch their **Becoming "The Beloved Community"** program. Funds will go toward creating an advisory committee composed of community representatives of marginalized populations to develop programs regarding Pulse with the purpose of bringing together multiple faith communities for four to six sessions and hosting two major community gatherings. Grant will also cover the extension of their Friends Talking Faith Pulse-related radio programming and translation into Spanish.

EFFORTS BUILDING CAPACITY AND EMPOWERMENT FOR...

LGBTQ AND LATINX COMMUNITIES



Central Florida Jobs With Justice

Central Florida Jobs With Justice is a nonprofit coalition consisting of labor unions, community organizations, faith based groups and students working together to build power for working people. We are thrilled to award a grant to Central Florida Jobs With Justice that will be used to launch the **Workers Building Contigo Project**. Grant will be used to focus on three programmatic areas: Leadership Development, Building Organizations and Coalition Building to create leadership in LGBTQ, Latinx, and Black communities inside and outside of the existing labor movement. Funds will cover the cost of building organizations that can cultivate and support Black and Latinx LGBTQ workers and leaders. Ultimately, organization will bring key groups and leaders together creating an intentional space to regularly meet and begin forming deeper relationships and understanding to unite across demographic and sector differences around shared self-interest and common values of human dignity, racial and economic justice.

"Thanks to the grant we received, we went from meeting in people's living room to having our own space in which to hold weekly meetings to help our community process what had happened and learn about available resources in a cultural competent way. This just didn't exist. Contigo helped us create it."

Christopher Cuevas, Executive Director
QLatinx



Proyecto Somos Orlando

Proyecto Somos Orlando, a project of the Hispanic Federation, is a nonprofit that offers counseling, services and other support for bilingual professionals for families impacted by the tragedy that occurred at Pulse Nightclub. We are thrilled to award a grant to the Hispanic Federation for Proyecto Somos Orlando to launch and lead the **PROMESA** program. Funds will enable Hispanic Federation's Central Florida office and the Proyecto Somos Orlando project to enhance its service delivery to a currently underserved population – LGBTQ individuals in Puerto Rico and newly arrived LGBTQ individuals living in Central Florida -- including informational seminars and workshops, career development workshops, English classes, and wrap-around services including mental health counseling, mentorship programs, and social service navigational workshops.



QLatinx

QLatinx is a social, racial and gender justice organization dedicated to the advancement and empowerment of Orlando's LGBTQ Latinx community. QLatinx seeks to center and empower the most marginalized members of our community, establish affirming and supportive healing spaces, build a strong and united community, and work towards a society free of fear, violence, and hate. We are thrilled to award a grant to QLatinx **supporting their work and sustainability**. Funds will go towards building on QLatinx's capacity by investing in a full-time staffer which would support the expansion of their community building, creation of safe spaces, and leadership development work for queer and transgender communities of color and furthering the development and delivery of the organization's various education initiatives surrounding the themes of racial, social, and gender justice related issues.

IMMIGRANT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES



Hope CommUnity Center

Hope CommUnity Center is a nonprofit and service learning community dedicated to the empowerment of Central Florida's immigrant and working poor communities through education, advocacy, and spiritual growth. We are thrilled to award a grant to the Hope CommUnity Center to launch the **Proyecto Solidaridad (The Solidarity Project)**. Grant will be used to hire a community organizer to create a preparedness plan responding to the anticipated reality created by the election and the increased vulnerability & needs of the undocumented community. Organizer will work with local undocumented immigrants to conduct "safety planning" and helping people learn their rights, responsibilities and what to do if they encounter immigration officials and will work with youth members of Hope's diverse Sin Fronteras Social Justice Group to help students access & understand their personal "stories of self" with the goal of building leaders that can teach to other agencies and communities about the realities of undocumented, Latinx and LGBTQ lives and those living at the intersection of these communities.



Farmworkers Association of Florida, Inc.

Farmworkers Association of Florida is a nonprofit whose long-standing mission is to build power among farmworker and rural low-income communities to respond to and gain control over the social, political, workplace, economic, health and environmental justice issues that impact their lives. We are thrilled to award a grant to the Farmworkers Association of Florida to contribute toward their existing **Defending Immigrants' Rights (DIR) Project**. Funds will support the project's ongoing efforts to build the capacity of farmworkers & low-income immigrants to develop strategy to address & resolve community-identified issues, and to actively participate in decision-making processes that impact their lives. They will additionally add a new component to the Defending Immigrants' Rights Project by developing an advisory committee comprised of LGBTQ persons, and their family members when possible, in the farmworker community to provide input to the Farmworkers Association of Florida's staff, leadership, & other community members on how the work of the DIR Project, and the work of FWAf at large, can be more responsive to and inclusive of the LGBTQ community.

LGBTQ AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES



Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD)

Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity works to support, empower and connect LGBTQ Muslims. They aim to increase the acceptance of gender and sexual diversity within Muslim communities, and to promote a progressive understanding of Islam that is centered on inclusion, justice, and equality. We are thrilled to award a grant to the Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity going toward their **LGBTQ Muslim Community Engagement program**. Funds will cover cost of hiring a values-aligned part-time project coordinator who would oversee execution of hosting strategic community convenings in two key locales - Washington, DC and Orlando, Florida - to bridge dialogue between mainstream (non-LGBTQ) Muslim leaders and LGBTQ Muslim activists and leaders, and will include the design of an evaluation tool to gauge impact of efforts and identifying action steps post-convenings.

"The stress from intense media scrutiny and islamophobia [following Pulse] caused our community to suffer from trauma including mental health stresses, isolation and a sense of hyper visibility without any significant resources to access culturally competent support. The Contigo Fund changed that for us. Now more than ever, we are determined to use our narratives to push back against islamophobia, transphobia and homophobia. We have plans to do a convening to bring Muslim leaders together with the LGBTQ Muslim community to hear our concerns and strategies for moving forward, which have been made possible by the grant we received."

Urooj Arshad
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity

"Representation, inclusion, awareness, access and visibility are all words that describe the imprint the Contigo Fund has made in the LGBTQ Black community of Orlando. It is a community that is often left out, but with the help of the Contigo Fund we're turning that around by effecting change from within."

Rev. Debreita D. Taylor
Oasis Minister

LGBTQ AND BLACK COMMUNITIES



Oasis United Transformations Community Development Corp.

Oasis United Transformation (O.U.T) Community Development is a nonprofit faith based organization with an inclusive mission which focuses on reaching out to a diverse population of people with different ages, races, genders, gender expressions, sexual orientations and socioeconomic statuses and with a humanitarian focus on empowerment. We are thrilled to award a grant to Oasis to launch the **Orlando-Oasis Community Outreach program**. Funds will go towards the hire of a Community and Crisis Advocate which would raise awareness of the unique challenges LGBTQ Black individuals face in society, build a more unified community by organizing and partnering with the Latinx community on social and racial justice issues around the movement for brown and black lives, and advocate for the survivors of the Pulse tragedy and other people of color communities who are at high-risk or have been victims of hate crimes based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race and all other forms of bigotry.

TRANSGENDER WOMEN OF COLOR



Bliss Cares

Bliss Cares is a nonprofit whose mission is to save lives, by treating and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and STDs. We are thrilled to award a grant to Bliss Cares that will be used to launch the **TRANSaction** (pronounced: TRANS - ACTION) program. Funds will go toward hiring a part-time Program Coordinator to implement a 6 part conversational education series for 20 Latinx and African American transgender individuals. The top four students will become the "Voices of Bliss" who would then provide cultural competency building trainings to nonprofits on issues impacting the Latinx and African American transgender community and how to best support them.

Transgender women of color have specific needs that we're able to address with the help of the Contigo Fund. Thanks to its gift, we are launching a program to offer cultural competency building trainings to nonprofits on issues related to the Latinx and African American transgender community.

Juan Rodriguez, Executive Director,
Bliss Care

RIPPLE EFFECT

Contigo Fund has proven to be a powerful participatory philanthropic model that has been instrumental as a champion and resource to underserved communities and can be replicable across the nation. Because of its unique and thoughtful structure -a leadership that is reflective and embracing of the diversity of the communities they serve- Contigo was able to quickly gain community buy-in, influence with key stakeholders, and effectively shine light on a wide range of disparities facing LGBTQ individuals and people of color.

Moreover, the Contigo model is accessible to new groups and grassroots efforts, which often lack access to philanthropy. The ripple effects of Contigo's work can be felt and seen in the actions of our local government and philanthropic partners across the region. Through collaboration and mutual learning we are addressing disparities more actively and better.

This is how some of them describe Contigo's impact:

"Orlando and Orange County have done an extraordinary job in showing the world who we are and how we embrace diversity. We have become an example for communities throughout the nation and around the globe to emulate. This is in large part due to the exceptional efforts of organizations like the Contigo Fund, which has played an integral role helping those directly impacted by the Pulse Nightclub tragedy, while also serving as a champion, voice and resource for the LGBTQ and Latinx communities. Together, we continue to prove that love always prevails."

Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs

"Out of a horrible crisis, the silver lining is that foundations stepped up and recognized needs that had been largely ignored, and promptly offered help. Contigo was instrumental channeling that help in a way that was inclusive to new groups that formed in response to Pulse for which traditional funding was not available. This could be a replicable model for the nation."

**Joan Nelson, Senior Vice President of Community Impact
Heart of Florida United Way**

"The Contigo Fund serves a unique role in the Central Florida Community. Not only does it engage people from the Pulse-affected communities to review and recommend grants, it also seeks out grass roots and fledgling organizations representing those communities to provide capacity and sustainability. I love the energy and enthusiasm this group of community leaders bring to the grant making process as well as the opportunity to see healing in action as these grants are made to the nonprofits in our community."

Sandi Vidal
Vice President of Community Strategies & Initiatives,
Central Florida Foundation

"The Contigo Fund shined a light on long overlooked issues affecting some of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in Central Florida. It is LGBTQ individuals and people of color who are the most impacted by low and unfair wages, access to health care, poor housing options and underrepresentation in decision-making bodies, just to mention a few. Those are all issues being addressed because of the work of the Contigo Fund."

Carlos Guillermo Smith
Florida State Rep.



HOW WE MAKE OUR FUNDING DECISIONS

Contigo's grant making is driven by a keen sense of responsibility to meet the communities we serve where they are. We help strengthen and empower them by supporting their vision with trainings and opportunities to build community with each other and financially support their efforts to lead programs that offer medium and long-term solutions.

We go through great lengths to ensure funding goes to organizations –both emerging and established- which are in sync with our main goals. These are:

1. To support the efforts of those that were predominantly impacted by the Pulse tragedy, including advancing LGBTQ and Latinx causes and particularly efforts led by and for the LGBTQ Latinx community.
2. To strengthen Central Florida by building bridges among its diverse and marginalized communities, including connecting the LGBTQ and Latinx communities and supporting efforts to unify those communities with the African American, Muslim, and immigrant community.
3. Address the ripple effects of the Pulse tragedy, particularly involving issues of Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism.



Grant Application Process and Eligibility

The Contigo Fund has two grant programs:

1. Rapid Response Grant Program - An emergency fund of up to \$15K offered to organizations responding to an unexpected act of hate or violence in their community. Applications are accepted by invitation only.
2. Semi Annual Awards Program: Grants issued in Winter and Summer through an open application process. These can be requested up to a maximum of \$50,000, for either six or 12 months.

We are proud to work with emerging, grassroots organizations that often lack access to philanthropy in addition to established ones. Applicants do not need to have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status to request funds. Those lacking the status can apply under the auspice of an established nonprofit. Contigo will connect applicants without tax-exempt status with potential nonprofit sponsors whenever needed. A letter from the nonprofit agreeing to the fiscal sponsor relationship is required as part of the grant application.

Preference is given to organizations with expenses of less than \$1 million.

What We Will Fund

Contigo will fund organizations working in Central Florida to achieve the following goals:

Healing and empowerment: Projects that provide opportunities for healing for the communities directly or most impacted by the Pulse tragedy, including peer-led support groups, community organizing, and other programs that focus not only on providing culturally and linguistically competent services but on empowering community members.

Leadership development: Projects that promote leadership development, including popular education and grassroots trainings and skills building, among communities most affected by the Pulse tragedy.

Work led by women / trans / gender-expansive / intersex leaders and youth:

Projects that center and are led by women of color, transgender, queer, gender expansive, and/or intersex leaders and youth.

Bridge-building: Projects that create opportunities for meaningful connection and mutual learning among Central Florida's diverse communities, especially between LGBTQ, Latinx, Muslim, Immigrant, and Black communities.

Racial, social, and gender justice-focused:

Projects that raise awareness to address homophobia, transphobia, patriarchy, gender inequity or inequality, gender-based violence, Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism, and/or other forms of bigotry.



How Proposals Are Evaluated:

Proposals will be evaluated by the Grants Committee based on several key criteria:

Demonstrated community leadership and accountability:

Projects that provide opportunities for healing for the communities directly or most impacted by the Pulse tragedy, including peer-led support groups, community organizing, and other programs that focus not only on providing culturally and linguistically competent services but on empowering community members.

Fill a gap in the community: Projects that promote leadership development, including popular education and grassroots trainings and skills building, among communities most affected by the Pulse tragedy.

Collaboration: Applicants are willing to form strategic partnerships and work in coalition with others grantees.

Demonstrated institutional commitment:

Applicants must show evidence of their commitment to support LGBTQ people of color communities, including nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as past institutional support for addressing issues affecting a diversity of LGBTQ communities.

Clear goals: Proposal outlines a plan that is well thought out with clear goals, outcome perspective, and strategies.

We have created a low-barrier process that is accessible to emergent grassroots groups and established agencies as well. Our evaluation and reporting process is equally thoughtful and accessible to all.

Who Makes Grant Decisions

A top priority for Contigo Fund was to creating an accountable and transparent grant distribution process led by the community. The Grant Committee is made up by 12 remarkable leaders in Orlando that were directly and deeply impacted by the Pulse tragedy and are highly reflective of this community's diversity. This includes representatives of the LGBTQ and Latinx, transgender, African American, undocumented immigrant and rural communities.

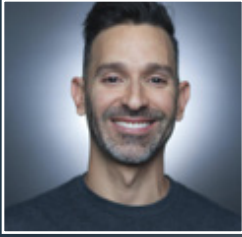
All Grant Committee members agree to disclose any real or apparent conflict of interest arising from employment, financial benefit, personal relationships, professional relationships and other interests. If applicable, any one condition may serve to disqualify a reviewer from participating in the review of an application or proposal.

GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Marco Quiroga – Program Director**
- **Carlos Carbonell**
- **Miguel Naranjo Cortez**
- **Ann Kendrick**
- **Jordyn Victoria Laos**
- **Hugo Melchor Chable Lara**
- **Joel Morales**
- **Ricardo J. Negrón-Almodovar**
- **Joan Nelson**
- **Nikole Ariana Parker**
- **Nancy Rosado**
- **Debreita “Brei” Taylor**
- **Sandi Vidal**



GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Carlos Carbonell

He has an extensive track record as a successful gay Latino business and community leader. Carbonell is the CEO of Echo Interaction Group, an award-winning mobile app development & technology strategy consulting firm. He is the recipient of the prestigious Don Quijote Award for Hispanic Business of the Year and the LGBT Chamber of Commerce's Community Champion Award.



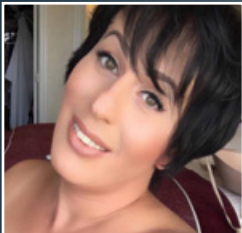
Miguel Naranjo Cortez

A gay Mexican leader in Orlando who works on centering and empowering the LGBTQ Latinx community in Central Florida. He grew up in a rural and predominantly migrant farmworker community and brings this important perspective into his work. Miguel is one of the founding leader of QLatinx, a grassroots LGBTQ Latinx organization that emerged from the Pulse tragedy.



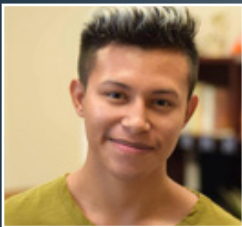
Ann Kendrick

Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who came to Central Florida in 1971 to work with migrant and seasonal farmworkers, immigrants, and the working poor and co-founded the Hope CommUnity Center in the rural farmworker community of Apopka to lead those efforts.



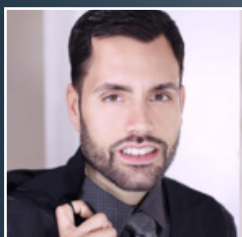
Jordyn Victoria Laos

A transgender Latina of Cuban and Dominican descent. She is deeply connected to Orlando's LGBTQ community as a former employee and performer at Southern Nights nightclub and many of her close friends were directly impacted by the tragedy driving her to action. Laos' vision of the world was shaped by her experience as a transgender woman of color, raised in a home with mixed cultures and by a formerly undocumented father.



Hugo Melchor Chable Lara

Born and raised in Escarcega, Campeche, Mexico. Growing up in Mexico wasn't easy for him as a gay youth experiencing bullying for being different. Lara's family made the difficult migration across the desert to the U.S. when he was 10 and settled in the rural community of Apopka. He has since become an advocate in Central Florida supporting efforts to empower and protect undocumented communities.



Joel Morales

He is a young gay Latino from Puerto Rico with a knack for helping others. Morales formerly served as Lead Counselor of the Prevention Program at The LGBT Center of Central Florida and was propelled to the frontlines of helping survivors and victim's families of the June shooting. He continues his service as a case manager for the Orlando United Assistance Center that aims to reestablish normalcy to The City Beautiful.

GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



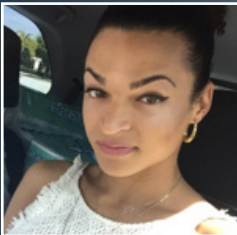
Ricardo J. Negron-Almodovar

Born and raised on the island of Puerto Rico, he focused on academics, obtaining a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Teaching, as well as a law degree. Relocating to Orlando in the summer of 2015 and survivor of the Pulse tragedy, he currently works as the Director of Proyecto Somos Orlando, an organization that emerged to assist those directly impacted by the tragedy, their families and broader community.



Joan Nelson

Senior Vice President of Community Impact for Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) and a long history of nonprofit leadership and a background in social work. Nelson has been selflessly serving the community and coordinating social services through the HFUW since 1997.



Nikole Ariana Parker

A transgender Afro-Latina of Puerto Rican & African American descent. Parker was born and raised in Orlando. She is an advocate for mental health, very connected to Orlando's LGBTQ community as someone who worked for a short time at Pulse Nightclub, and since the tragedy was propelled into become an energetic supporter of LGBTQ causes, particularly for transgender community.



Nancy Rosado

Co-Founder of Proyecto Somos Orlando who was instrumental to its creation due to her extensive experience in mental health, crisis intervention, and connection to LGBTQ, Hispanic, and faith communities. Rosado is a retired NYPD sergeant and a 9/11 first responder and survivor who was assigned the task of coordinating the long-term access to mental health care for first responders after that attack.



Debreita "Brei" Taylor

Founder and Pastor of Oasis Fellowship Ministries (2005), a congregation for the LGBTQ and African American community, as well as President and Founder of its nonprofit arm called Oasis Unified Transformations Community Development Corporation also known as O.U.T. Pastor Brei is a long-time leader seeking to support and advocate for LGBTQ Black communities members at high-risk of hate and violence.



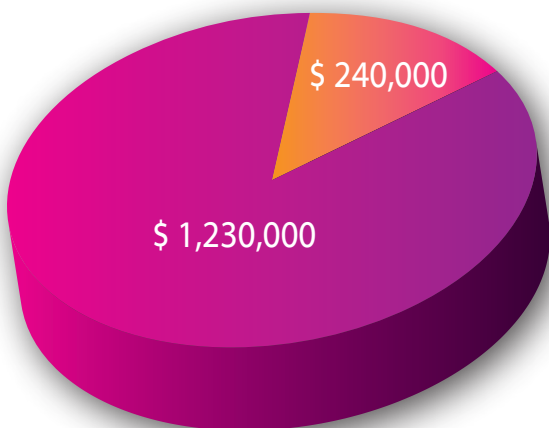
Sandi Vidal

Vice President of Community Strategies and Initiatives for the Central Florida Foundation. Prior to this role, Vidal formerly served as the Executive Director/CEO of Christian HELP, a nonprofit focused on helping people to find jobs, and served on the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness.

FINANCIALS

Funding	\$1,470,000
Total Grants	\$1,230,000
Program & Admin	\$240,000

Initial Contigo Funding



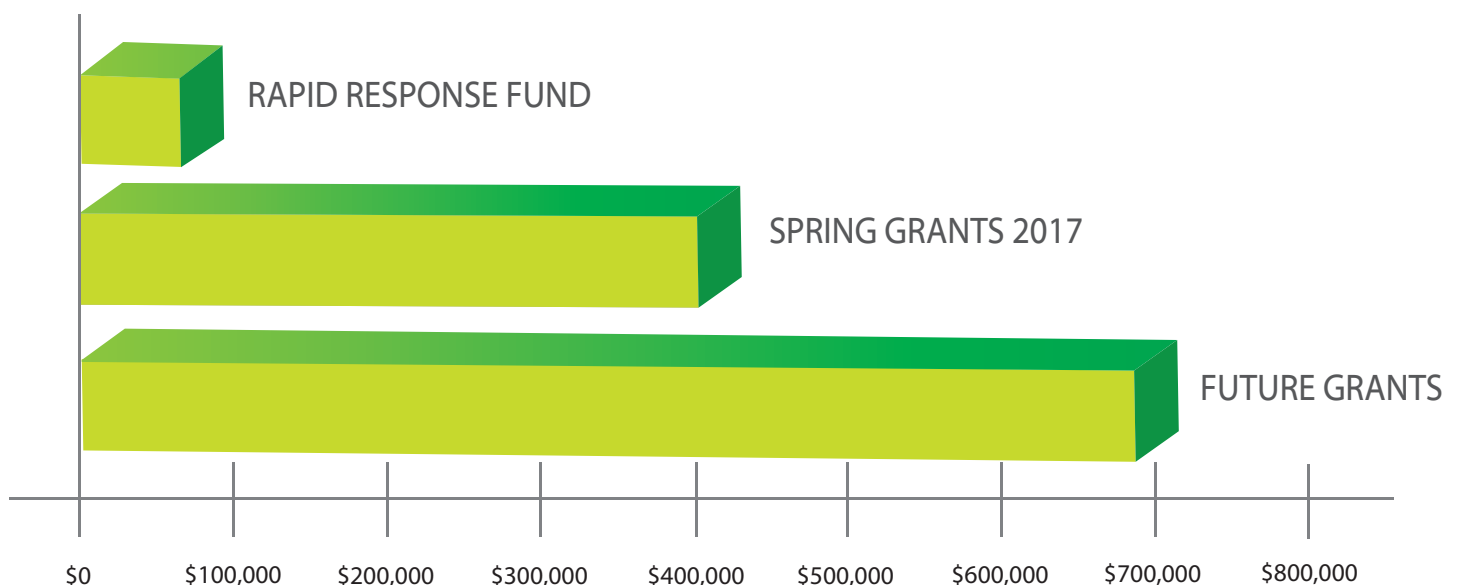
Grantmaking

Rapid Response Fund	\$30,000
Spring Grants 2017	\$452,000
Future Grants	\$778,000

TOTAL GRANTS:
\$ 1,230,000

Program & Admin:
\$ 240,000

Initial Contigo Granting



MARCO ANTONIO QUIROGA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Marco is the Program Director of the Contigo Fund. He lays the groundwork for and oversees the grant process and distribution of funds to strengthen existing agencies and to identify and support grassroots efforts that advance Latinx and LGBTQ, immigrant, and people of color causes and the intersection of these communities in Central Florida.

Marco brings along with him a wealth of local community knowledge and advocacy expertise in LGBTQ, immigrant, and racial justice movements as a direct result of his own life experience as an undocumented and queer person of color. By centering and working alongside those directly impacted, Marco advocates and challenges systems to ensure those living at the intersections of marginalized identities are treated with the full dignity and respect they deserve.

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

R. Mark Blaylock

Mark joined Our Fund Foundation as Director of Finance & Administration with extensive experience in a number of areas including financial and investment management, human resources and training, and project management. Originally from Tennessee, he was instrumental in the start-up and management of two de novo commercial banks and more recently served as Finance Director for two non-profit organizations in Washington, DC.

Karina Claudio Betancourt

Karina is a Program Officer with the Open Society Foundation and works with the place-based Open Places Initiative in three sites: Buffalo, N.Y., Puerto Rico, and San Diego, California. Originally from Puerto Rico, she is a skilled community organizer with experience in New York City in management, advocacy, policy analysis, fundraising, and grant writing. She has particular experience working/organizing to empower low-wage workers, immigrants, and LGBTQ individuals.

David Jobin

Prior to joining the Our Fund Foundation as its President and CEO, David was executive director of the Stonewall National Museum & Archives in Fort Lauderdale from 2013-2015 and served as executive director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. from 2009-2013. Before becoming active in LGBT causes professionally, David spent twenty years in theatre management in San Francisco and Pittsburgh.

Cindy Rizzo

Cindy is an Evaluation and Strategy Senior Advisor with the Arcus Foundation. Her work focuses on evaluation of Arcus' program strategies and initiatives with a priority on learning from and improving strategies and activities. Prior to joining Arcus in 2006, Cindy was director of grantmaking at the Boston Foundation where she specialized in the areas of health and human services, homelessness prevention, LGBT rights and HIV/AIDS.

Ben Francisco Maulbeck

Ben Francisco, currently as President of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, has more than a decade of experience as a leader for LGBT rights, racial equity and social change. He has an exceptional track record of building the capacity of nonprofit organizations and leaders, raising money for underserved communities and developing and implementing innovative grant making initiatives. From 2007 through 2012, Maulbeck worked at Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), most recently as Vice President.

Chantelle Fisher-Borne

Chantelle, a native of Louisiana, joined Funders for LGBTQ Issues after almost two decades in the nonprofit sector to lead their Out In the South Initiative. Her professional career began in the public-health field with a focus on community development and LGBTQ youth. She has worked to address issues of affordable housing and homelessness through transforming community based services to better meet the needs of families living in poverty.

Matt Blinstrubas

Matt has worked in the LGBTQ community since graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2007. He is currently the Director of Grants at the Elton John AIDS Foundation. During 2016, he supervised \$8.6 million in grants awarded to 142 organizations for programs being conducted across United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic.



THE WORK AHEAD

— BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE AND CREATING A NATIONAL MODEL —



Given that Florida's LGBTQ **Latinx and other people of color** populations are both more likely to face challenges such as acts of hate and violence as well as poverty, unemployment, and lack of health insurance, it is reasonable to assume that members of these communities in Central Florida face significant socio-economic barriers compounded by their dual minority status.

Mindful of this, the Contigo Fund has developed an innovative model that is community-driven, intersectional and focused on long-term impact and on healing a community wounded by tragedy that includes several unique components:

- A participatory grantmaking model in which members of the communities most impacted by the tragedy drive decisions;
- Rapid response funding that provides flexible support for organizations to facilitate community healing and recovery, particularly from future acts of hate and violence;
- A capacity-building strategy that works to assure that the response to the tragedy is not only short-term but also fosters a sustainable infrastructure for social change and empowerment of the region's marginalized communities.

Orlando's philanthropic efforts hold various lessons learned and best practices of how national funders can positively show up in Southern communities. Contigo's model both demonstrates how funders can proactively and thoughtfully respond, rebuild, and meaningfully transform a fractured community and in its process empowers those who are often those most likely to be left out of the decision-making process and distinctly impacted to lead.



Orlando Strong

Honoring those taken from us and building a unified,
empowered community for all.