As I look back on our accomplishments this year, and anticipate what lies ahead for the Center for Community Change (CCC), I am sobered by the threats our communities face. So many of us are living with a sense that the world is tipping, that a wave has crested, that we are peering over the precipice. The way we rise to the challenges of this moment will shape our movement and our country for the next century.

This is personal for me. As an immigrant and a person of color, I am offended by the anti-immigrant, callous rhetoric of too many of our politicians. I have personally been the recipient of the bigotry, xenophobia, and intolerance Trump—and the broader populist, nationalist phenomenon of Trumpism—have unleashed and legitimized on our streets, in our jobs, schools, and airports. As someone whose college tuition was paid for by the taxi drivers’ union—my father was a member—I’m appalled at the vision of a society where we are on our own, instead of in this together. As a gay man, the systematic bullying, demonization, and indifference to the most vulnerable reminds me in the worst way of the early days of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

We are in the fight of our lives—one that we cannot sit out and one that I absolutely believe we can—and must—win. I promise you, as long as CCC is standing, we will be fighting.

As we rise to the unprecedented threat to our communities, we are building on what we achieved and what we learned in the past year. I am proud of our work and the bold advocacy of our sister advocacy organization, the Center for Community Change Action (CCCA). CCCA President Dorian Warren shares his perspective on the flip-side of this report.

Make no mistake, we could not do this work without you—the CCC community of allies and supporters. Living room by living room, block by block, in community meetings and town halls, we are building a movement for justice. We’ll see you in the streets.

Deepak
The Center for Community Change is grateful to the following foundations, organizations, and individuals who supported our work with donations during the 2016 calendar year. We also thank those donors not listed who supported our work with valued contributions under $1,000 during this period.

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DONORS

DONORS
The Center for Community Change (CCC) believes that the people directly affected by injustice must drive the solutions to its causes. We help by building the capacity of grassroots groups through trainings, analysis, and technical assistance; by connecting groups into aligned, intersectional movements; and by directly engaging citizens in civic life.

Our movement depends on real people sharing their experiences and demanding change. In marginalized space, storytelling is an act of bold agency, and in this age of political punditry, real people get noticed.

“More than any other partner, CCC has been vital in building new capacities, resourcing campaigns, and thinking together about how we build state based power.”

—Kirk Noden, Interim President of Ohio Organizing Collaborative

$1.2B
for affordable housing

10-YEAR COMMITMENT TO THE LONG-GAME

In Minnesota, a decade of organizing and building power paid off in 2016. Our partners have transformed Target—the largest employer in the Twin Cities—into a powerful corporate ally. Because of our collaborative campaign, both Minneapolis and St. Paul enacted the strongest paid sick time measures in the country—with the backing of Minnesota’s corporate community.

1,550 Grassroots Leaders

CCC held 3 nonpartisan forums and workshops around the presidential primaries for leaders to engage with academics and elected officials on the issues that impact their lives—economic justice in Iowa, the care economy in New Hampshire, and environmental justice in Nevada.

770 housing trust funds created over the past 30 years by advocates in 47 states delivered dedicated revenue for housing in 2016 with the help of CCC’s Housing Trust Fund Project.

90 pieces by our Writing Fellows

CCC creates a platform for writers who come from low-income backgrounds and speak from their own experiences with poverty, inequality, and the struggle to make ends meet. Publications from the Washington Post to The Undefeated to CNN featured them in 2016.

180 Grassroots Ambassadors

CCC trains these “super volunteers” to be leaders and storytellers with the skills to organize others, the creativity to drive strategy, and the resilience to build movements.

104 Faces of DAPA and DACA

With our partners in the Fair Immigration Reform Movement [FIRM], CCC elevated the faces and stories of some of the 5 million people who would benefit from the executive actions DAPA and DACA through exhibitions in 9 states.
SEE YOU IN THE STREETS
I stepped into my new role as the President of Center for Community Change Action (CCCAction) exactly one week after the 2016 elections. We didn’t know, at that point, how the president-elect would fulfill his campaign promises or the extent of the chaos he’d unleash.

But we did know—to paraphrase Ella Baker—that we who believe in freedom cannot rest. We organize. We continue the struggle for justice in the streets and at the polls.

In 2016, CCCAction ran one of the largest independent voter mobilization operations ever to target low-propensity immigrant voters through our Immigrant Voters Win PAC. We knocked on 2 million doors, sent 1,000 canvassers to the streets on election day, and propelled the first Latina Senator, Catherine Cortez Masto, to Washington.

The Trump presidency is following through on unprecedented threats to our most vulnerable communities, but we are organized. I learned the power of organizing from my grandparents. Their parents—my great-grandparents—came north to the promised land of Chicago. Their neighborhood on the South Side was hardly the paradise they’d hoped to find, but my grandparents were able to join a union—the Janitors’ Union, SEIU Local 1—and their union jobs paid enough to send the first person in my family to college: my mother.

Our national fiction is that hard working people are able to claw their way to the top, alone. But we know that’s not true. We are strongest when we are united. As we watched the rise of Trumpism over the past two years, CCCAction called for a united progressive front to counter the toxic mix of populism and white nationalism in this country. Over the past few months, our coalition of progressive groups is growing stronger.

Since CCC’s founding in 1968, we have been committed to the long game, but the stakes of this year’s fights are higher than I’ve ever seen. Our government is set on criminalizing and deporting millions of immigrants in what amounts to a project of ethnic cleansing. Republicans are doubling down on their plans to gut voting rights and roll back the gains of the civil rights movement. All of this on top of efforts to destroy the very fabric of the social safety net that provides food and basic health care to tens of millions of people.

The people whose lives are at stake in 2017 are the reason CCCAction exists. We concede nothing. We’ll see you in the streets.

Dorian
CCCAction and our Immigrant Voters Win PAC got out the vote in 2016. With national partners and state-based groups in Colorado, Florida, and Nevada, we turned out hundreds of thousands of voters who are least likely to vote—and who traditional campaigns ignore. But these folks—Latinos, immigrants, and low-income people—delivered the margin of victory for both Sec. Clinton and now-Senator Catherine Cortez Masto in Nevada.

**Early Vote Fiestas**

- 2 Wall of Taco Trucks featuring Mariachis outside early voting locations in Nevada
- 460,000 Voters turned out because of our
- 1,9 Million SMS Messages
- 1,2 Million Pieces of Mail
- 180,000 Mainers will be better able to make ends meet because of the campaign by Maine People’s Alliance and CCCA to increase the minimum wage to $12 by 2020 and require that all workers— including tipped workers—earn the minimum wage.
- 6,000 Three- and Four-Year-Olds in red-state Cincinnati will have access to pre-K thanks to a ballot initiative that passed with CCCA’s support.
- $50 Billion in dedicated tax revenue will support a massive expansion of public transit in the Seattle metro area—a measure that our partner OneAmerica ensured would be accessible to immigrant communities, benefit low-income people, and focus on sustainability.

By applying the same art and science of issue organizing to electoral campaigns, we win elections, too. From “off-year” local and state elections in 2017 to the national midterms in 2018 to the presidential in 2020 and all the state legislative elections in between—CCCA will be fighting.

Elections are bright flashpoints of civic engagement—but we do not lose our power the day after we vote. We still possess the strategic levers to shape our governance in our cities, in our states, and at the heart of our nation’s capital in Washington, D.C. We win when we’re present in our communities—day in and day out—working on the issues that matter. CCCAction has laid the less visible groundwork for hard-fought victories with sweeping impact.
OUR WORLD CHANGED ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016.

WE RISE UP TO PROTECT THE 5.1 MILLION CHILDREN
who risk losing an undocumented parent to deportation.

WE FIGHT TO DEFEND THE ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS
that keep tens of millions of Americans fed and healthy.

1 IN 5 PEOPLE DEPEND ON MEDICAID
With campaigns in 17 STATES
where we are organizing, mobilizing, and amplifying the voices of impacted people:

OVER 43 MILLION PEOPLE DEPEND ON FOOD STAMPS

WE CONCEDE NOTHING

OUR COMMUNITIES ARE UNDER ATTACK, AND CCCA IS CONNECTING THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENTS OF SOLIDARITY TO CALL FOR JUSTICE WITH A SINGLE VOICE.

THAT UNITES OUR COMMUNITIES RATHER THAN SPLINTERING US INTO SILOS OF SUFFERING

THAT DRIVES PEOPLE TO THE STREETS AND DELIVERS ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES AT THE POLLS

THAT TRANSLATES PROTEST TO POWER, SHAPING POLICY FROM INSIDE THE HALLS OF GOVERNMENT