

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

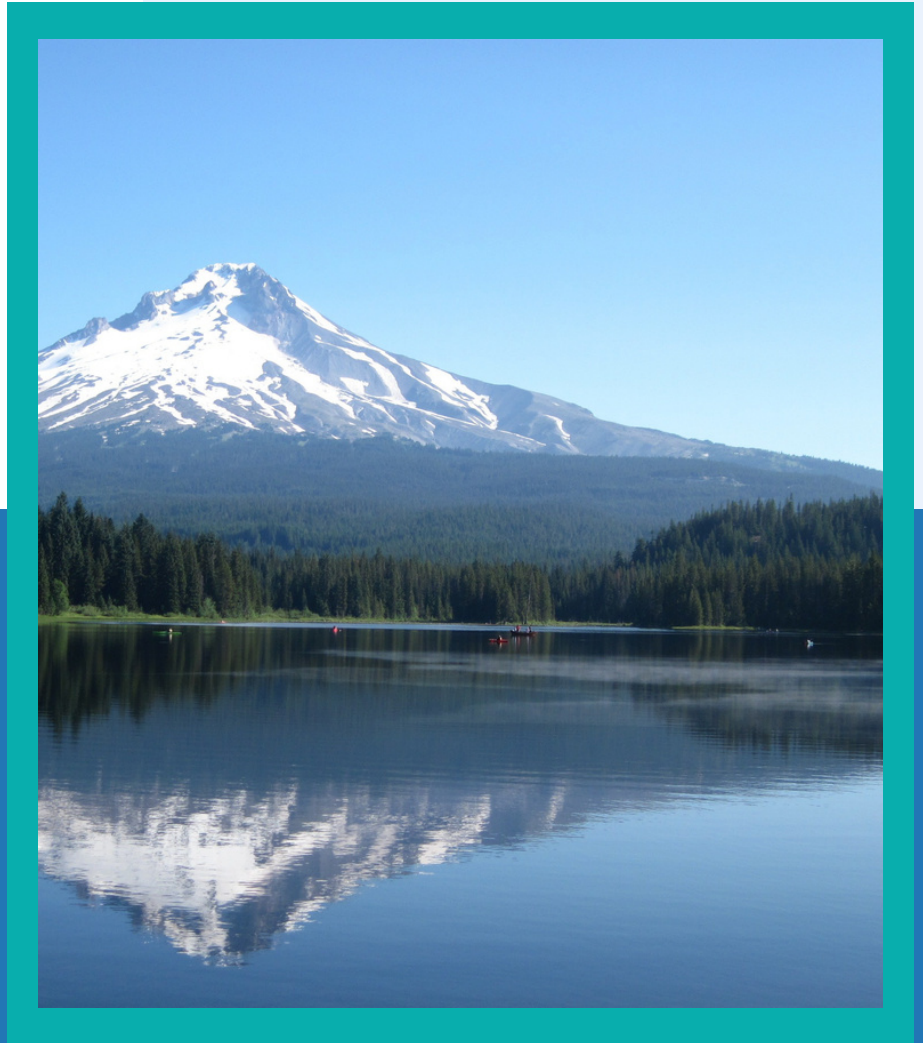
# DISASTER RESILIENCE LEARNING NETWORK

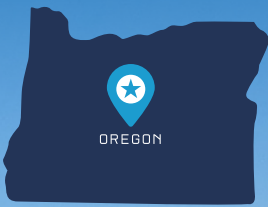
CULTURALLY GROUNDED HEALING & LEARNING SPACES  
BY LEADERS OF COLOR FOR LEADERS OF COLOR

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# Annual Summary **2022**

## Introduction

The massive wildfires that hit Oregon in September 2020 had a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of communities across the state. In the immediate aftermath of this disaster, community-based organizations serving communities of color identified profound gaps in communications, evacuation, shelter, and other systems intended to alert and protect the state's residents from disasters. The Disaster Resilience Learning Network (DRLN) was created to bring together culturally specific and/or people of color serving community-based organizations (CBOs) and leaders who serve communities of color disproportionately impacted by disasters.

## From Collaborative to Network

Upon review of the Disaster Resilience Learning Collaborative (DRLC) in 2021 evaluation and findings, CBOs advocated for the collaborative to move into a network able to better foster relationship-building and resilience collaborations across Oregon. In Fall 2022, a committee of Network members created the Network's goals and objectives and finalized its mission. This committee received stipends for sharing their wisdom and time.

# The Disaster Resilience Learning Network

*Creating culturally-grounded healing spaces by and for leaders of color in disaster resilience work*

## Membership

Our members consist of CBOs that primarily work with communities of color in disaster work here in Oregon, OHA's Environmental Public Health team, United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and Trauma Informed Oregon



19

Participating CBOs



25

Active representatives

## 2022 Membership Directory

Beyond Toxics  
Bridging Cultures  
Catholic Charities of Oregon  
Centro Cultural  
Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos  
Coalición Fortaleza  
Familias en Acción  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice  
Living Islands  
Native American Rehabilitation Association  
NW, Inc. (NARA)  
The Next Door, Inc.  
Oregon Health Authority  
PCUN  
Raices de Bienestar  
Rogue Climate  
Southern Oregon League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
The Stronghold: A Culturally Responsive Peer Support Program  
Trauma Informed Oregon  
UNETE, Center for Farm Worker Advocacy  
Unite Oregon  
United Way of Columbia-Willamette

## OUR MISSION

The DRLN is committed to advancing equitable disaster resilience, for people of color, through healing-centered, culturally grounded collaborations and sustainable practices.

## OUR VALUES

The DRLN is committed to fostering space for culturally rooted people and to equity at the heart of our health, our work, and our resilience.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

The DRLN was created within the theoretical guidelines of the social resilience framework, healing-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally grounded approaches.

## GOALS



### Wellbeing

To improve and support the health and wellness of BIPOC leaders working in climate and disaster resilience.



### Relationship

To build relationships for leaders of color working in climate and disaster resilience.



### Culture

To center and bridge the importance of culture into climate and disaster resilience





## WELLBEING

The DRLN champions rest, rejuvenation, and restoration as forms of resistance and liberation. By supporting spaces dedicated to cultural-safe places for rest and education we seek to sustain our disaster leaders self-efficacy and wellbeing.

- **Regenerative Leadership Coaching:** Contracted with Kirin Bhatti who offered 5 live sessions and 6 modules for a cohort of 10 DRLN members to hold earth-based healing spaces around burnout.
- **Storytelling with Community:** Contracted out with Tecca Thompson who offered 5 live storytelling sessions accessible to all DRLN organizations.
- **Sharing Knowledge:** Showed 3 Natural All-Hazards Center webinars with poster session discussions related to environmental justice and community practice.


## RELATIONSHIP

The DRLN champions centering relationship in the network by holding space that is culturally affirming and based on diverse knowledge and perspectives. By building trust and relationships, we seek to support collaboration and strengthen the voices of our members.

- Held **4 quarterly meetings** related to education, wellness, storytelling, and infrastructure changes.
- Connected members with local public officials.
- Grantees completed their **2021 DRLN Resilience Grants**, 2 projects which co-led by multiple DRLN organizations. **\$179,000 was allocated towards 12 organizations.**

## CULTURE

The DRLN champions integrating culturally-safe and grounded practices in its infrastructure, goals, and activities. By dedicating time and space to cultural and ancestral practices, we seek to dismantle systematic oppression and move toward culturally healing practices.

- Held **7 planning circles with 9 DRLN members** to build a culturally-safe infrastructure. Participating DRLN members received monetary stipends for providing cultural and knowledge expertise.
  - Launched **DRLN 2023 Resilience Grants** for DRLN organizations that offers flexible funding to be tailored towards community needs.
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# REPORT OUT OF 2022 DRLC UWCW GRANTS

Following the DRLC 2021 learning circle series, CBOs seated at the DRLC were invited to apply for United Way of the Columbia Willamette Resilience grants to complete a project focused on fostering resilience in their community. These funds supported CBOs to build climate resilience and social connectedness for communities of color affected by climate-related disasters (i.e., wildfires, floods, heat waves).

CBOs enrolled with the DRLC were eligible for these funds, which were used to support their community and/or staff. \$179,000 was allocated towards 12 organizations. 5 projects were conducted in partnership of multiple DRLN organizations.

CBOs shared and celebrated their projects in January 2023, offering listeners guidance and examples for culturally-rooted community resilience strategies in practice. **These projects are estimated to have impacted over 8,000 people in total.**



## PCUN & CENTRO DE SERVICIOS PARA CAMPESINOS

This collaborative grant for PCUN and Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos focused on developing the Mental Health and Counseling Services Bank: quickly addressing mental health breakdowns, early signs of depression and/or hopelessness, and to preventing addiction. The project provided their organizations' access to mental health resources and culturally responsive therapists who understand social justice organizing and who identify as bilingual and bicultural. The Mental Health and Counseling Services Bank strengthened community navigators and team leads directly working with PCUN/Centro's frontline wildfire and emergency response resiliency efforts.

Our project was perfect for our staff and community. We have been able to create a space where staff can come together and focus on their mental, and overall well-being. We were able to provide some tools for our staff for them to use after a long day of work, or after they dealt with a hard situation with a client. The very first circle we held was very special because we had a healer come out and bless us, and the journey we were starting, we were able to have some sage, and be together in community with the traditions that our ancestors have had before us. We were also able to give our staff a "Mental Health Care Package" where we provided a notebook, sage, crystals, aromatherapy and some Palo Santo. The staff loved it, and they appreciated all of the work we put in for this to be a space where they can share and grow. - Debbie D. Cabrales

PCUN and Centro leaders identify as and serve BIPOC, immigrant, farmworker communities. This project was intended for their community leads and teammates who, growing up in working-class families, historically needed access to health services or culturally responsive mental health resources. **This project reached 20-25 individuals.**

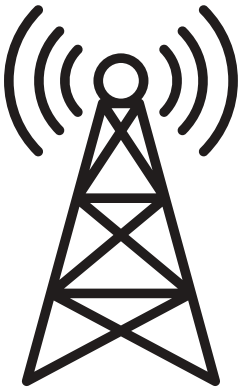




## THE NEXT DOOR, INC.

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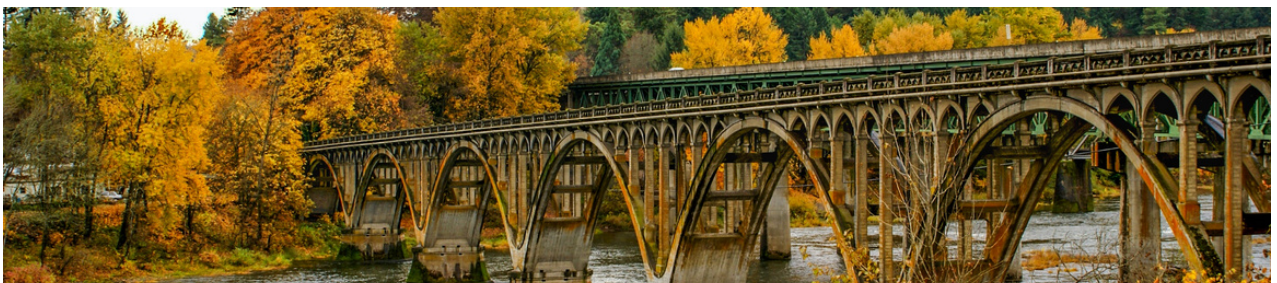
This project increased awareness of and participation in Everbridge, a community wide emergency alert system within Spanish-speaking and Native American communities. The Next Door, Inc. helped register community members for Everbridge, educated the community, and helped ensure folks are prepared for emergencies, and established connections between organizations. This project outreached to the Spanish speaking community through a Public Service Announcement, (PSA) related to heat-illness prevention (played on radio station Radio Tierra). This PSA won an “honorable mention” award in the EPA’s outreach contest to “hard to reach populations” about health issues.



We provided education sessions to the Community Health Worker Collaborative of the Columbia Gorge, which consists of 35 people. Additionally, we provided outreach to over 200 people about TNDI’s capacity to support Spanish speaking members of the community. As of this date, 5 people have called for more information about the program, but we have not yet registered anyone. Additionally, we have the heat-related illness awareness PSA running on the Spanish speaking community radio station, **which reaches an average of 7,000 people.**



In addition to creating a system Everbridge registration, Community Health Workers from TNDI helped to support the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) community. This summer in the Gorge saw a variety of climate related stressors for our community, sustained temperatures above 100 degrees, wildfires, and wildfire smoke. On one of our last and final efforts, The Next Door Inc. (TNDI) health promotion team launched a food box event for the MSFW community in The Dalles, OR. At this time in mid-summer, fires were spreading in our rural areas, migrant workers were getting ready to go back to California and some people needed a little extra help. We gave out over 250 food boxes. Over 10 organizations supported the event and gave information. This is an example of the amount of work we did to help support disaster relief in our area. - Patty Lara



## OREGON INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE



IMIRJ responded to the 2020 fires by initiating the Immigrant Mutual Aid Coalition space in Clackamas County, specifically serving displaced immigrant communities and climate refugees. After responding to overlapping and emergent crises, this grant project planned and launched a retreat dedicated to healing, equity, and the way immigrant community members wanted to see recovery in their communities. The planning group consisted of members from Jefferson County, Josephine County, and Clackamas County. During this retreat, participants had a deep dialogue of where people are holding pain, fear, and aspirations, and hope. Participants concluded that they wanted to “give wings” to their communities by sharing tools of vulnerability, seeing themselves through a resilience lens, and educating their youth on mental health. Themes related to immigration, race and ancestral lineage, and mental health were prevalent.

This project made room for participants to celebrate and share their own lineage’s healing practices. Participants received tools to process difficult situations and information on who to contact in times of crisis and emergencies. IMIRJ hopes to continue fostering relationship and trust with immigrant Oregonians and the faith community.

“We wanted to explore what healing is. No one is an authority on mental and emotional health, crisis, and emergency response, but when we get together and put our talents together, we are in reach of it.

During the retreat, we played at Deschutes River, did walking meditation, and saw baby swans “little floppy gray balls of tender love and care.” “We had the opportunity to walk through the nature center and talked to owls and other birds of prey in Spanish. And the birds reacted. You could see they were engaged and active . They were exposed to something new. Being seen and heard by the birds of the high desert was something we all took away from.”

- Joanne Mina



# BRIDGING CULTURES



Bridging Cultures gathered 30 Latine women from Clackamas and Marion counties to come together in a series of 7 culturally grounded and healing-centered classes focusing on physical, mental, emotional and community health, wellness and connections. The goal was to raise awareness, build resilience and use a "nurture the nurturers" framework where participants can model and promote resilience within their own spheres of influence. This created a small community of women who could support each other in an effort to restore identity and self esteem, strengthen community membership and share their knowledge with others. Each class was facilitated by a professional Latine artist, healer, or mental health professional. Each class offered an activity, nourishment, reflection, knowledge sharing, wellness support and a treasure.



Agradezco mucho que Puestos Entre Cultura haya abierto la oportunidad para ofrecer sesiones enfocadas en la salud emocional y resiliencia para la mujer. Gracias al maravilloso grupo de mujeres de este grupo que acogieron a mis papás de una manera tan afectuosa. Cada vez que llegabamos a la sesión eramos recibidos con una sonrisa y nos sentiamos apreciados por Fabi y el grupo. Espero que en un futuro cercano continúe este tipo de programas que tanto hacen falta en la comunidad.



The staff retreat was for 3 days at a vacation home in Rockaway Beach, OR. The staff participated in team building exercises, games, arts and craft activities, nature walks, cooking, eating and had plenty of time to laugh, share and learn about each other. The trip promoted relaxation, resilience and team bonding. The Disaster Resilience Program Coordinator presented the program results and community impact to the Bridging Cultures board of directors to encourage specific, culturally grounded healing and care practices for the staff that support the community as well and to invest in healing and resilience-building actions and programs and to continue learning about the connections between equity and healing. **This projected benefited 50 individuals.**

## LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC)

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League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) worked with the Latinx and Indigenous community and build a strong network of community members, many of whom are parents, to empower and enhance new skills for advocacy. Those attending the training were be offered participation stipends for joining the series of six bilingual sessions. There was a kick off and recruitment for 15–20 community Indigenous and Latino parents and leaders from Southern Oregon, Washington County and Lane County.

20 Latina mothers affected by the Almeda fires participated the leadership and advocacy training. From this cohort participants gained valuable skills and information to advocate for themselves, be more engaged and active in their children schools and community. Out of this cohort seven mothers/leaders are part of the School Site Council in Phoenix-Talent School District where their voices and the representation of the Latinx community is at the table where decisions are made.

Southern LULAC estimated **over 200 people benefited** from the three events they delivered.



Watch this video about Southern LULAC's **Dia de los Muertos 2022** at Phoenix Elementary School!

## ROGUE CLIMATE



Rogue Climate planned and implemented the Community Resiliency gathering series: a series of community gatherings focused on increasing social-connection within the Latinx community in the Rogue Valley, specifically focusing on families and youth who have been impacted and displaced by fire. These conversations were the groundwork for grassroots advocacy work within the community, including future campaigns around climate justice, disaster preparedness, cultural healing, and resiliency. Participants received stipends and childcare was be available.

We were looking for different ways people could stay connected. . . and so through this resiliency network, we were really able to think about let's try to do things in community and tried to center joy in them. Our community gatherings provided a Spanish-speaking space for folks to come together, reconnect, and be joyous. Most folks attending carne asadas and Language access meetings were fire affected community members and expressed a desire for more spaces like this. What I really liked was just to make connections with individuals who just wanted to be involved in these efforts.

For the second one we had, one woman wanted to cook and provided the food. We provided a stipend for her to do that as an appreciation but wanting to make sure the food was covered. This led to our support of a local artist's Dia de Los Muertos event as well as Zumba in the park, to help take our minds off of things and distress. This came from an idea from someone who attended one of the carne asadas. - Blanca Gutierrez

Rogue Climate will continue to host gatherings and move toward more community member direction involvement by building relationship, joy, and gathering spaces. They hope to support joyous gatherings in other community spaces. One learning point Rogue Climate shared from this experiencing was opening community involved to, "What are people really looking for and desiring? How can we build connections with joy? How can resilience be built in our communities moving forward to prepare for whatever comes our way?" **About 50 individuals benefited from this project.**



## NATIVE AMERICAN REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION NW, INC. (NARA NW)

NARA NW serves BIPOC households who experienced climate disasters, such as extreme weather, lack of clean water, loss of housing and/or income due to wildfires and the current pandemic. Obtaining and sharing indigenized knowledge and skills supports the NARA NW community deepened participants' restoration of identity and relationship with self and community. NARA NW offered experiences and tools to indigenize ways of living by weaving in traditional healing and centering cultural climate resilience practices such as native food sovereignty (community gardens, sharing traditional foods, growing native plants), and traditional Native cultural healing education. This project also supported the creation of ceremonial spaces including a medicine wheel dedicated to the community for meditation, depaving 10,000 square feet of pavement for meditation, native plants, and ancestral education, and the development of fire circles and sweat lodges.

NARA NW established specific outreach phone numbers/hotlines for those facing crisis. These numbers were advertised on created water bottle labels and dispersed to the community during the July heatwave and at community events. Flyers regarding air quality and wildfire smoke were created and for the public. A NARA NW Disaster Resilience video and brochure targeting the Indigenous community is in the works.

“We are teaching these kids to connect to mother earth. The more in tune you are the more you aware aware of your surroundings. Their medicine wheel helped them improve that space for meditation. It’s a very sacred space. They grow lavender, sage, tobacco, and other native plants. And they harvest those for self-use. - Michele Pinkham

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Disaster resilience awareness has heightened as opportunities were presented to the Indigenous community as well as other vulnerable populations. Efforts included: specific outreach phone numbers for multiple issues, raised awareness of poor air quality and wildfire smoke, and food sovereignty projects making gardening sites capable of providing foods and medicines. **This project has benefited 500 people+.**



## FAMILIAS EN ACCIÓN

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This project, Emergency Disaster Preparedness Workshops, used grant funds to support virtual and in Spanish emergency disaster preparedness workshops. These resulted from 8 focus groups from 6 areas of the Portland Metro region and of Latinx/o/e youth, adults, and elderly community members. The workshops addressed disconnection between communities and county agencies, lack of information on disaster preparedness, and a desire to learn about climate change and vocalize their community needs.

This project launched 3 disaster preparedness workshops. **100 kits were distributed to Latino/x/e families. 100 families were trained.** There was a waitlist of about 18 participants for every workshop, signifying the need for this work and that these workshops are conducted in a manner where people feel welcomed and interested in the topic. Post evaluations indicated that about 68% of participants understood what climate change is and that 73% completely understood the steps to preparing and creating an emergency plan as discussed in the workshops.



These kits were very well received from the community. They were always excited to get one and tell us how much they liked it. - Elizabeth Lopez-Hernandez

## THE STRONGHOLD: A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

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The Stronghold provides culturally relevant peer support services and disaster response and relief. The Stronghold helped provide grief support for up to 68 Klamath tribal families in 2021. The Stronghold's resilience project supported their transitional housing food pantry which helped feed those affected by wildfires and displaced community members. Their culturally responsive peer support team, led by enrolled and/or descendants of a federally recognized tribe, were funded for their outreach and support of the community. During this time of loss, their wrap-around services include: a drop-in center, men's and women's transitional housing, culturally responsive individual peer grief support, wellbriety circles, early intervention substance use services, and provide delivery of supplies to families, individuals and elders. Gift cards were made available to clients residing in their transitional housing and community members in need. **125 people benefited from this resilience project.**

## UNETE

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This project funded the strategic planning, visioning, and wellness retreat. Unete's staff are leaders in Southern Oregon offering wrap-around services and advocacy support to farm workers, immigrant families, and individuals who are impacted by multiple disasters. Being present for the families and helping guide them to resources has been emotionally charged, heavy, and challenging. Unete leadership, with staff input, will plan and organize a staff retreat to address self-care and offer a vicarious traumatization training. Organizational visioning will be part of this retreat to better support and outline Unete's community needs, successes, and challenges while centering their mission of respect and justice for farm workers and immigrants



Our project provided a two day staff retreat where we could unwind and do team building activities. each team member brought a guest. After a busy year of supporting over 650 fire impacted families from the 2020 Alameda fires, it was great to be able to all relax and laugh together, spend time getting to know each other better, share meals together... We also received funding to update our website. The funding helped us be able to reach out to Spanish speaking individuals and update all posts and flyers/etc in both Spanish and English. We want to make sure that our organization, that focuses on serving Spanish speaking families has all the information in a language they can easily access. - Kathy Keesee



Unete's website gets about 400 hits a month so around 4800 in 12 months . They've also received many emails form the "connect with us" email option on their website about a variety of different services. **This project funded 19 staff to attend the retreat.**