



Progress Report to Families

January 2017

Introduction

2016 was a year full of family successes and inspirational stories. Many families focused their initiatives around goals like improving their health, buying a home, starting a business, their children's education, going back to school and overall, supporting each other. The year was also challenging for the communities in which we live. The divisive presidential campaign with its negative rhetoric about us, our friends, our families, and our colleagues has been exhausting, frustrating, and counter to our efforts to change the country. Just weeks after the presidential election, I know I am not the only one who feels uncertain for the next four years. Amongst all the emotions and uncertainty, I know that this is also when we, as an FII community, must come together. History shows us that it is during times like this that movements gain their momentum.

Now, more than ever, we must rely on one another and that is why I am pleased to present the second family report on the investments you have made in each other. Collectively, with families across the country, you have contributed to a movement where families support one another, reach out for help, and accept help from others. You are building a community that cannot be broken by negative rhetoric and political bullies. Instead, this community has the power to shift these negative perceptions. Your dedication and commitment to one another is inspiring and noteworthy.

We look forward to getting your feedback on this report and continuing to hear your stories and successes. Thank you!

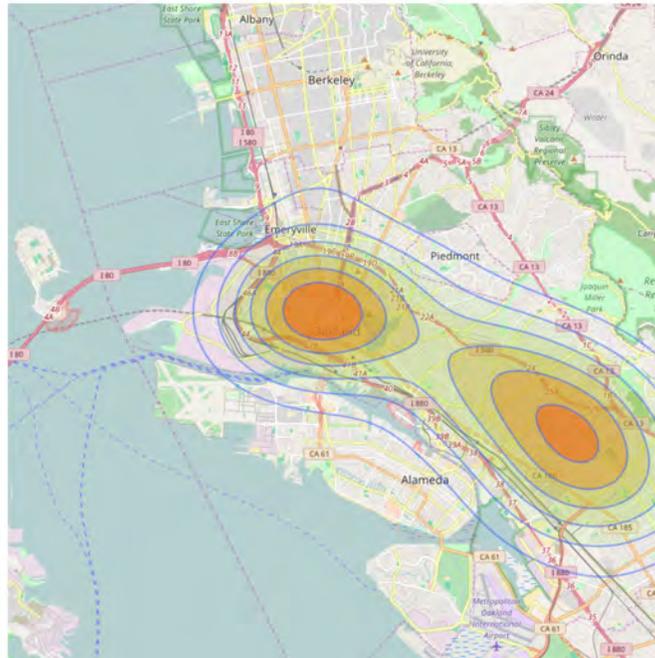
Yours in the Movement,

Jesús Gerena, Managing Partner

Your Progress and Achievements

Where helping each other takes place in your community

The map below highlights the areas with the highest concentrations of families reporting helping each other in Oakland. The closer to red an area is, the higher the concentration of families supporting one another.



Estimated dollar value

Every month we ask you to report one how you help and receive help from your friends, family, and neighbors, and if those exchanges were monetized, how much money they would be worth. Using the data your family and community provided us, we discovered that FII families in Oakland have exchanged an estimated \$378,164 in social capital through activities like watching each other's children, cooking for one another, lending money, etc. Nationally, FII families have documented \$2,615,239 in shared social capital. These activities are worthy of recognition. The table below illustrates your family's social capital exchange, social capital in Oakland, and social capital nationally.

	Gave	Received	Total
Your family	\$12,418	\$3,650	\$16,068
Oakland	\$260,877	\$117,287	\$378,164
National	\$1,743,106	\$872,133	\$2,615,239

Top ways you support and receive help from your community

The following is a list of the top ways your family gave help to others, and the top ways your community supported your family.

Top ways your family gave	Top ways your family received
Help Getting Hired For A Job	Transportation
Providing Food	Childcare
Sharing Information	Help Getting Hired For A Job

In Our Words

Elsa Flores – Boston, MA

This is a brief story, but one of many. We don't often make note of them or share because it is just what we do here it, just comes from within us. We feel for each other and help. We don't want to be recognized. It's just the right thing to do. The reward comes when we see the appreciation and gratitude of the family; in this case we saw how a family benefited from aid that came in a time of great need.

I remember one morning in January 2016, I made a phone call to a family partner I referred (as I usually do when I have recommended families to FII) to ask how she was coming along with her monthly report. I asked if she had finished or needed any help from me to complete the report.

When she answered the question she began to cry, and said she couldn't complete her report. Her cries were of guilt and sadness because she didn't have any time. She had other priorities at that time to think about. She did not have any food in her refrigerator. She explained how her kids barely had eaten something the night before and she didn't have milk because they had no money to buy food.

She is a single mother, mother of 6 children; 3 of whom that were living with her. At the time she also had started taking on her 16 year old who recently had a baby. She received food stamps, but that was not enough to cover everyone for the month.

As a mother, all I could think about was the kids. It crushed my heart and with great sadness I started to cry. During the call I tried to take control of the situation. I thought to myself and immediately reacted and thought "I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP". I then told her I would call her back and if she would be home later so I could stop by. I swiftly organized a plan. I called two of my sisters who are also part of FII and two neighbors who had recently been accepted and were very involved in the project.

We made a list of food and basic cleaning materials, milk, canned goods etc. for each each person including myself to collect. We completed the list in a matter of hours to take to our friend and her family. I thank God I called her at that very moment when she needed it the most. We fulfilled our mission to bring everything we could together. We did what we thought was necessary until the food stamps soon arrived and the situation of the family improved.

I just wanted to share how through mutual support in difficult situations we exercise and demonstrate leadership as FII families.

Baakir Tyehimba – New Orleans, LA

Afrakan wisdom teaches us that children are a gift to the community. They are the gifts that give back and prolong the life and vitality of the community. Therefore, it is vitally important that the community embraces the full responsibility of rearing healthy children. My name is Baakir Tyehimba. I was blessed with the privilege of birthing BlackStar, a gift of life the community could rally around to nurture as it cares for us.

BlackStar has served as a consistent gathering hub and nourishing home for all walks of members of our community. We provide space for strategy meetings, social gatherings, classes and workshops, performances, screenings, book clubs and study groups as well as being a wonderful place to have a good lunch or early light supper. In our efforts to define our community as Little Afraka and usher in more businesses and institutions to support and sustain it's people and culture, BlackStar has also been hosting small street festivals and celebrations that emphasize the values and joys of our community. As we continue forward, we have determined some initiatives to implement (some already in motion, some starting soon) for greater community strength.

BlackStar has expanded, for what has been a little more than a year now, to house a separate market shop area called the Soko Mahali where we sell Afrakan-centric clothing and accessories, body butters, herbs, incense and oil, jewelry and art. Our community library, though not entirely complete, has been used for home school groups, story circles, book clubs and play dates. We've also started our Saturday school for cultural enrichment and community building skills. Finally, we've yet to get the Algiers Family Heritage project in motion. While there's plenty work to be done, the people of Little Afraka continue to be the village/community to raise BlackStar and BlackStar will continue to take care of the community.

Make time to come black home!

Resources

As the theme of this report is community support, here are some resources in the FII Resource Hub you might be interested in.

- Lending circles (<https://www.uptogether.org/resources/10-lending-circle>)
- Social club (<https://www.uptogether.org/resources/4-fii-social-club>)

Feedback

In order to continue improving, we want to keep on hearing from you. Let us know what you think of this report and what types of resources you might like to be available in the FII Resource Hub by clicking the survey link below:

https://fiinational.typeform.com/to/h4MYIS?family_id=8

(https://fiinational.typeform.com/to/h4MYIS?family_id=8)

© Family Independence Initiative (<http://www.fii.org>) 2016