

Red Hook Initiative (RHI) Receives \$1 Million Gift From the Yield Giving Open Call

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[BROOKLYN, NY], March 19, 2024 – Today, MacKenzie Scott's Yield Giving announced Red Hook Initiative (RHI) as one of the Yield Giving Open Call's awardees working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States. Red Hook Initiative (RHI) received \$1 million.

Founded in 2002, Red Hook Initiative (RHI) believes that social change to overcome social inequities begins with empowered youth. In partnership with community adults, we nurture young people in the NYCHA Red Hook Houses to be inspired, resilient, and healthy and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community, and society. We envision a Red Hook where all young people can pursue their dreams and grow into independent adults who contribute to their families and community.

Since 2014, RHI has reinvested over \$1 million annually into the Red Hook community through job opportunities for adults and youth and paid internships designed to empower young individuals to effect positive change within their community. In 2023 alone, RHI significantly contributed \$1.8 million back into the local economy, including:

- \$1,194,209 allocated towards salaries for adult residents of Red Hook, Brooklyn.
- \$249,726 designated for salaries for high school students.
- \$54,043 in stipends provided to younger teens.
- \$214,663 allocated for salaries for young adults involved in community improvement projects and subsidized workforce readiness internships.
- \$146,955 distributed in emergency funds to assist 108 Red Hook families facing financial hardship.

"For over twenty years, our organization has been inspired and motivated by a single, powerful belief: public housing residents can change and lead the systems that most impact their lives. This generous award from Yield Giving and MacKenzie Scott affirms that this work impacts our community and the system. We look forward to this catalytic gift contributing to empowering youth through meaningful paid work, culturally relevant programming, and deep community collaboration." Michael Partis, Executive Director at RHI.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations. This explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to improve their well-being through substantial foundational resources. The Open Call received an overwhelming response of 6,353 applications, and we are proud to announce that RHI was among the select few community-based organizations that were chosen. This recognition validates our commitment to the Red Hook community and the impact of our work.

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"We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations," said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. "In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain Unseen."

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at www.leverforchange.org.

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Red Hook Initiative

Red Hook Initiative (RHI) is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering 6,500 youth and adults within the vibrant Red Hook Houses of Brooklyn, NY. RHI offers a range of educational, employment, and youth development programs, and facilitates access to fresh affordable produce grown on Red Hook Farms. We are committed to fostering community connections and are working to create an ecosystem of wellness and healing from race-based trauma. Our mission is to cultivate a resilient and empowered Red Hook community, fostering inclusivity and safety for all to learn, prosper, and flourish. To discover more about our work, please visit rhicenter.org.

Yield Giving

Established by MacKenzie Scott to share a financial fortune created through the effort of countless people, Yield Giving is named after a belief in adding value by giving up control. To date, Yield's network of staff and advisors has yielded over \$16,500,000,000 to 1,900+ non-profit teams to use as they see fit for the benefit of others. To learn more, visit www.yieldgiving.com.

Lever for Change

Lever for Change connects donors with bold solutions to the world's biggest problems—including issues like racial inequity, gender inequality, lack of access to economic opportunity, and climate change. Using an inclusive, equitable model and due diligence process, Lever for Change creates customized challenges and other tailored funding opportunities. Top-ranked teams and challenge finalists become members of the Bold Solutions Network—a growing global network that helps secure additional funding, amplify members' impact, and accelerate social change. Founded in 2019 as a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Lever for Change has influenced over \$1.7 billion in grants to date and provided support to more than 145 organizations. To learn more, visit www.leverforchange.org.

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If you would like more information, please email Maddy Jenkins, Senior Manager of Communications, Media@rhicenter.org.