Dear Friends,

In 1977, our co-founder Fred Goff, sat at his desk with a notepad, pens, a list of names, and a mission. He was patient, but proceeded with no hesitancy. The newly formed DataCenter would fortify low-income workers, housing project residents, and immigrant workers with the very information and tools hidden in plain view. There was hope, yes. But there was also a certain knowledge, that armed with the stories of these communities and the facts and figures of their lives, the road ahead was the path to victory.

In the years between, the DataCenter has been a steadfast companion to both national and international partners in the fight for social justice. Whether for groups like the National Domestic Workers Alliance or the youth of Khmer Girls in Action, the DataCenter has proven time and again that the tools for our success — over the likes of Wall Street, Monsanto, and Tea Party politicians — lies within our immediate grasp. All that is needed to wrest the power of those tools is our firm belief that our research, our methodologies, and our systems of learning will drive us forward.

In 2010, Fred announced his retirement from the DataCenter on its 33rd anniversary, and we celebrated his lifelong commitment to social justice and DataCenter. The Regeneration Gala was also a key moment for us to rededicate the DataCenter to meeting today's challenges.

You, our supporters, have helped us meet the future with new energy and greater strength. Not only did you help the DataCenter meet its 2010 financial goals, you exceeded them. Your gifts amounted to the single largest contribution in DataCenter’s 33 years of existence, boosting the impact of services the DataCenter delivers to communities hungry for justice.

The new leadership era has begun. Our focus moving forward will be to grow as a learning organization. We are constantly trying to learn from our own experiences as well as listen to our partners and supporters. We truly value constructive feedback to guide our constant effort to improve our work.

I believe that our work is on the threshold of the social justice movement unlike any we have seen before — work fueled not only by our abundant passion for social change but also our skilled wielding of the facts, guided by our stories.

Join us for the victories that lie ahead!

miho kim
Executive Director

DataCenter unlocks the power of knowledge for social change.

We support grassroots organizing for justice and sustainability through strategic research, training and collaborations.

We use research to help move the knowledge and solutions of communities of color and the poor from the margins to the center of decision-making.
It is not just a story. It is not one to tell alone. Together, we have an experience to share.

The sweat of our workplaces. The gravel of our apartment blocks. The dirt of our streets...

It will not be easily wiped away, shoved aside, or swept clear.
But we will join together to learn how we can.

At the heart of the DataCenter’s continuing efforts is a commitment to placing the tools of research -- from oral tradition methods, to investigative secondary research, to social science — into the hands of advocates working for the greater social good. Our goal is theirs: to win social, economic, and environmental justice for all of our communities.

The DataCenter rejects the widely accepted barriers between grassroots people and research that would relegate data exclusively to corporate statisticians and private/academic policy institutions. We believe that access to and transparency of information unlocks the potential of a future free from exploitation, injustice, and corrupt power. Rather than privilege a few, we insist, let the knowledge which defines us -- and the means to define that knowledge -- belong to all of us, equitably.

Because adverse policies have a disproportionate impact on low-income people and communities of color, the DataCenter focuses its efforts in these same communities. Domestic workers, indigenous leaders, and immigrant teens — all have the potential to reclaim the power of grassroots research to create positive social change. In fact, because they know the problems first-hand, they are poised to articulate solutions that last.

Our commitment to empowering communities with research skills brought us this year to groups like the Chinese Progressive Association, Food Chain Workers Alliance and the Right to the City Alliance. Their efforts to tell the stories of their members are now backed by critical documentation and analysis of industry and government data.

“This report has given our community leaders courage — they see their truth being acknowledged and taken seriously. We could not have done this critical work without DataCenter."

--Shaw San Liu
Chinese Progressive Association

Taking Our Voices to Scale
In partnership with the National Organizers Alliance, we surveyed more than 200 community-based organizations in the social change sector on the impact of the recession on grassroots organizing. As the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy agreed in their statement about the report, “our anecdotal evidence is indicative of a broader crisis.” At the U.S. Social Forum and elsewhere, we partnered with the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance and the Funders Network to Transform Global Economies to convene critical discussions with more than 100 representatives from philanthropy, community organizations, and other stakeholder groups. Said one participant, “these conversations are helping identify strategic unity on local, state and national levels, to change and resource the movement...and build on the legacy of our past.”
knowledge

This is not a foreign sweatshop. This is not from the time before. Before labor laws. Before minimum wages. Before health and safety standards. This is now.

Ten-hour workdays, six days per week. Backs made heavy by verbal abuse. Or worse. Before, we felt alone, afraid to step forward. That is before.

DataCenter has successfully spent the past decade developing a training program to create social justice researchers in, and from, marginalized communities. We provide the tools to connect the dots — to make the leaps between lived, individual experiences and shared, community knowledge. With our help, community experts design, analyze, and report on that research using social science surveys, documentation, “talkstory,” and more.

When bosses and landlords, seek to shut out communities, DataCenter provides an effective counter: We reveal those who are inside the backrooms. We sift through the data for what has been hidden, guiding them in the design of the investigation.

A story is only as good as the way it is told. How it is told is about what we want that story to achieve. Research design makes a key difference between a poorly told tale and the winning one that creates a groundswell of political momentum that moves the agenda on the community’s own terms.

This year, we helped strengthen research partnerships between the academy and local communities. DataCenter staff presented at the University of Southern California, Antioch College, and San Francisco City College (among others) on best practices in community research partnerships.

DataCenter also partnered with groups focused on providing technical assistance and capacity-building to grassroots movement groups. Our collaboration with the Pacific Institute example, resulted in an Environmental Justice Research Academy for Asian Pacific Environmental United for Community Action the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, organizations. These teens to elders, learned first-hand how research tools, such as mapping technology, could be used to tell their stories. YUCA youth have used their new skills to address redevelopment in East Palo Alto.

Together, we tell our true stories.

Right to the City Alliance-Los Angeles had tons of housing violation data which DataCenter turned into a report card. Poor performance widely exposed, housing officials promptly came to the table to meet communities.
In teaching methods for reclaiming research, the DataCenter focuses beyond just skills-building. Our eyes are on the prize — we ask our partner groups to see data and research within the context of its political impact and wield it as a tool capable of transforming the very structure of society.

Helping them build robust research projects — grounded in their shared experiences and backed by well-documented, strong data — is about supporting their own long-term advocacy goals. More than documenting injustice, the DataCenter strengthens the hand of these advocates in the public policy game: We guide their members through their own inquiry, to locate each piece of information they can weave into a story. Their story, unlike any other, that will portray their message in a new light, and make a powerful case for their solution. We train leaders on how they may bolster their stories with community-wide surveys. And we help them deliver their vision of a just society into the hands of decision-makers in formats that they understand: survey ‘findings’, reports, fact sheets, and more.

In 2010, backed by the DataCenter’s tools, our allies won hard-fought battles from California to New York. The White House Initiative on Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Washington, D.C. asked the Rhode Island-based Southeast Asian youth organization, Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), to present the results of their four-year study documenting the realities of their youth. The Chinese Progressive Association released a groundbreaking report on working and health conditions of more than 400 workers in San Francisco’s Chinatown, intended to stimulate city-wide political momentum to address this issue. Convinced by the survey results submitted by Leadership Excellence (see box), the City of Oakland secured $5 million from the state to make the dream of their very own Teen Community Center a reality.

DataCenter demonstrates the power of collective data in opening doors to media and policymakers.

Together, we win change.

As a result of the DataCenter partnership,
"we had the capacity to create another survey project about collective bargaining — our members surveyed over 500 domestic workers about their working conditions and reported the results to the New York Department of Labor."

Jill Shenker, Coordinator
National Domestic Workers Alliance

Teens’ Voices Reach City Council Through Research:
$5 million for New West Oakland Teen Center!

"West Oakland is a beautiful place that deserves an innovative outlet for the youth. Every step we took to research the needs of the youth counted. The DataCenter prepared us to ask the right questions, so that we could get accurate data."
--Diana Alonzo

“The surveys we collected from the community were the icing on the cake, showing how a teen center was and still is needed and how it could really help West Oakland.”
-Tiara Mc-Gee-Powell

This is it. Our stories -- our facts there in print.
We’re hugging each other.
Crying. It feels unreal.
Yes, it was that hard.
Hard fought.
But we won. We won!
After 33 years of uninterrupted service, the departure of the DataCenter’s co-founder Fred Goff was a major turning point in our history of leadership. Today, organizations near and far tap DataCenter’s own experiential knowledge on tackling leadership challenges with innovative approaches - from grantmakers asking us to conduct a workshop on leadership restructuring for their grantees, to consulting, to making presentations, and more.

In April, DataCenter co-presented on collective leadership at the Grantmakers for Effective Organizations conference in Pittsburgh, with Leadership Learning Community, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Center for Ethical Leadership.

Compasspoint identified DataCenter as a ‘next generation’ leader, “transforming their organizations to operate in a fundamentally different way to raise the bar on mission impact.” At Compasspoint’s Nonprofit Day Conference, Miho Kim spoke on the powerful role of telling — and trusting — our own stories for social change.

On the threshold of a new era at the Regeneration Gala:

“A lot of the groups of the movements that developed in the 70s divided ethnically, racially, by gender, sexual orientation, and everything else. It’s been terrific to see the DataCenter develop its diverse staff and to witness its transformation into an organization led by people of color and women. I think it will be just that much more effective because of it.”

--- Dan Siegel, Civil Rights Attorney at Siegel & Yee, Oakland

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a breakdown...

...of the type of research we provided in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strategic consultation</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surveys</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project planning</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>census</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>campaign strategy &amp; profiling</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literature review</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interviews</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>news monitoring</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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You are a crucial part of the DataCenter community. We are grateful for your generous support in 2010.

(Apologies for any omissions or errors.

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Adobe Systems
Alliance for Educational Justice
Alternative Technologies
Asian Immigrant Women
Advocates (AIWA)
Asian Law Caucus
Big Family Movers
Center for New Community
Common Counsel Foundation
Community Financial Resources
CS Fund
Design Action Collective
Dobbins Foundation
Earp Events
Edward Chiera Associates
Ellison Public Information Centers
Fern Tiger Associates
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Foundation to Promote Open
Fern Tiger Associates
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Foundation to Promote Open
Society
Funders' Collaborative on Youth
Organizing
Greenaction
Helena Fund of the Jewish
Communal Fund
Intersections Consulting
Jewish Funds for Justice
Khmer Girls for Action

community
partners

Alliance for Educational Justice
Arcus Foundation
Asian Immigrant Women Advocates
Block by Block Organizing
Network
BLOCS (Building Locally to
Organize for Community
Safety)
California Domestic Workers
Alliance
California Fund for Youth
Organizing
California Healthy Nail Salon
Collaborative
Chhaye CDC
Chinese Progressive Association
Los Angeles, San Francisco
City College of San Francisco
Compassport Nonprofit Services
Allied Media Conference
Creative Intervention’s StoryTelling
& Organizing Project (STOP)
Da Town Researchers Project
Erotic Service Providers Union
Food Chain Worker Alliance
Funder Network on Transforming
Global Economics
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grassroots Institute for
Fundraising and
Training (GIFT)
Green LA Coalition
Haiw People’s Fund
Instituto de Educacion Popular del
Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
Inter Alliance Dialogue
Justice for Families
Khmer Girls for Action
Los Angeles CAN
Los Angeles Research Groups
Media Council Hawaii
Liberes Campesinas
Coastal Alliance United for a
Sustainable Economy

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

ASSETS

Current Assets
Checking/Savings
Cash and Equivalents 338,139
Endowment Cash 20,985
Total Checking/Savings 359,124
Other Current Assets 30,745
Fixed Assets 8,249
Total Current Assets 398,118
Permanently Restricted Net Assets 846,714
TOTAL ASSETS $1,244,832

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities
Current Liabilities 63,030
Net Assets
Unrestricted Net Assets -225,727
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 474,546
Permanently Restricted Net Assets 867,700
Net Income 280,327
Total Net Assets 1,396,846
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $1,1459,876

INCOME STATEMENT JANUARY 1, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 200011 (UNAUDITED)

Revenue (unrestricted)
$19,476
$66,898
$152,634
$8,729
$566,030
$143,938
$81,877
$66,982
$597,606
$1,244,832

Expense
$371,791
$81,877
$143,938
$311,201
$8,729
$566,030
$19,476
$66,898
$152,634
$8,729
$566,030
$143,938
$81,877

*Development costs include Regeneration Gala expenses.