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Dear fellow funders,

Growing up in South Carolina was, in many ways, idyllic. Nestled within the lowcountry, on a 12-mile-long island, my upbringing was deeply influenced by my family's rich Gullah history. I was raised on heirs' property, surrounded by cousins, aunts, and uncles. A large part of what defined my childhood were these connections. I rarely met a stranger: from the gas station to the local recreation center to my first after-school job, someone knew my family. It wasn't until I got older that I realized how fortunate I had been, and how precarious our way of life was.

I began to notice that white people lived behind gated plantations while my family and other Black residents on the island lived on dirt roads outside of these plantations. Developers employed exploitative practices to take land from Gullah people for a fraction of its true value, thus excluding the original families from building generational wealth. This story of native Black

people being left out of and disproportionately affected by development extended beyond Hilton Head's beaches. While at the University of South Carolina (USC), I learned about the school's collusion with the city of Columbia to displace hundreds of Black families under the guise of urban renewal.

While South Carolina may have a troubled past, its people are resilient and strong. Trust them. Build relationships with them like the ones I grew up with. Create safe spaces for them to come together, connect, and learn from each other. Invest in them for the long-term. My upbringing taught me how to live in community with my people, and this is a practice that I am proud to bring to Amplify Fund, and one I hope you will join me in.

I recently met with a South Carolina grantee who shared, "Amplify funds us like we want to be funded; they fund us like they want us to win." I implore you, fellow funders, to also fund my hometown like you want it to win.

Sincerely,
Cassi

2023 Wins from Amplify Grantees in South Carolina



THE CENTER FOR HEIRS' PROPERTY

PRESERVATION was featured prominently in the documentary film *Gaining Ground: The Fight for Black Land*, presented by John Deere, which is also fundraising for the Center. The film won numerous awards and mentions at film festivals across the country in 2023, and is changing the conversation about heirs' property rights.

Image source: <https://gaininggroundthefilm.com/>

ALLENDALE COUNTY ALIVE received \$100,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) Rural Development office. The funding came from the Housing Preservation Grant Program (HPG) which provides resources to repair or rehabilitate housing occupied by very-low and low-income families in eligible rural areas. With the \$100,000, Allendale County Alive is estimated to assist up to ten households located in Allendale County.



FRESH FUTURE FARM is in the process of acquiring a 20-acre rural site to grow produce and address food insecurity. While this follows a failed attempt at purchasing land from the City of North Charleston, they remain steadfast in their mission of providing affordable food to the historically Black community of Chicora-Cherokee, nurturing their Black Farmers Cooperative, and distributing healthy, cultural food to Bee Collective participants.

Image source: [Fresh Future Farm @Instagram](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SCACED) was one of 51 organizations selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a “hub”. With the \$2.5 million grant SCACED will provide a variety of small business support services such as operations support, capital funding, technical assistance, and counseling to minority entrepreneurs and small business owners in the region.



Image source: [SCACED @ Facebook](#)

**Amplify is a community of funders
dedicated to supporting racial
justice powerbuilding groups in
8 places in the United States,
including South Carolina.**



Sound like you?!

**Reach out to
learn more!**

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