

A photograph of a forest path. The path is a narrow, dirt trail that winds through a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with some showing signs of being dead or dying. The ground is covered in green grass and other low-lying plants. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

COMMONWEAL

2 0 2 1 Y E A R - E N D R E P O R T

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope this finds you well. I am well. I turned 78 in October. I am beyond grateful for life, for love, for health, and for our work. Our work is going remarkably well. The pandemic and the global polycrisis have drawn more and more friends and partners to our work.

The bottom line is that Oren Slozberg and our intergenerational Stewardship Council is guiding us forward. So are all the Commonweal program directors and coordinators, the entire staff, and our deeply engaged board of directors as well. Board member Katherine Fulton points out that most non-profits have a much more challenging situation with leadership transitions. Oren Slozberg's genius, creating this model of "intergenerational leadership," allows us all to contribute what we have to offer.

As a direct result of the strength of our work over 45 years, we are now called to more and more good work.

The challenge is to discern what is ours to do, how to sustain the intimacy we cherish, and how to live and work in the infinite preciousness of the present while preparing to meet the storms that are enveloping our world.

Commonweal is rare in three principal respects.



SHARLE PATTON

First, we have an authentic commitment to kindness, consciousness, and the work that is not just words on paper. It is enacted every day in our friendly relationships with each other and with our extended work communities.

Second, while most non-profits focus on a single issue, we offer a home to 40 projects, large and small. They are loosely clustered in our three core fields of health and healing, education and the arts, and environment and justice.

Third, we have a core group of perhaps a dozen programs that have stayed relatively stable over long periods of time. Newer projects join this core as older projects fulfill their missions and come to a soft landing.

Here is where you come in, dear friends. Each program at Commonweal needs to earn its own keep. "Every ship on its own bottom," as they say at Harvard. It's a sound fiscal principle. We live by it.

But while we need support for each of our programs, we also really need "core support." Support for Commonweal that keeps the entire fleet together and moving in the right direction.

When you contribute "core support," your impact is automatically multiplied ten-fold. So when you do choose to give core support, you are helping float the entire fleet.

At the same time, your support for the projects you love is completely invaluable. I deeply hope that, one way or the other, you will decide to help keep Commonweal the small but powerful force we are in the world.

Thanks for being an active part of our community.

With love and gratitude,
Michael Lerner, President



KYRA EPSTEIN

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Twelve months ago, as 2020 was coming to an end, there was a sense that we were starting to breathe again. The first vaccines were being administered to health care professionals, there was enough rain to mark the end of fire season, there seemed to be an increasingly broad awareness of issues of justice and equity, and there were changes in government that offered hope and opportunity for new horizons. But 2021 has not been rosy. The vaccines have given us some respite from the harshest precautions. But water reservoirs in the West are at an all-time low, the pandemic is still very much present, and the need for justice, equity, and healing is as critical as it has been for the last century.

During this past year, Commonweal has been called to be present and engaged with our local, national, and global communities—be it through research, reflection, healing, or creativity.

When we finally were able to be together again in person at our Retreat Center this fall, we gathered more than 25 of our program leaders. We met outside, in a large tent in Hummingbird Meadow between Kohler House and Pacific House. It was a diverse group of people, engaging across differences in generation, race, and programmatic expertise.

Commonweal has always held at its core the values of justice and healing. Last year we added resilience as a third core value. And we have become proud of our ability to be nimble, flexible, and adaptable.

Our Power of Hope program is an example of a program that adapted to these times. In 2020, Power of Hope gathered virtually on Zoom. In 2021, 30 young people gathered for a camp held exclusively outside. The conversation during one of the main morning activities—“What would you tell an adult?”—triggered an important discussion about the world that young people today will be inheriting. Young

people know that we are leaving them a challenged planet, and they want to be included in the conversation about what to do next.

The world’s stressors are complex and not equally distributed. President Biden calls it a cascade of challenges; Joanna Macy refers to it as the Great Turning; and Michael Lerner calls it the polycrisis. However we refer to it, it’s complex, and complex times calls for complex measures.



JAYNE EVANS



KYRA EPTEN

Our 30 programs—working in their areas of expertise and passion while sharing a core grounding in justice, healing, and resilience—are the way Commonweal is working to bring change and transformation into this complex world.

Thank you for being here with us.

Oren Slozberg, Executive Director

SOME OF OUR WORK THIS YEAR:

Provided almost 12,000 healing support service hours for circle participants in 28 countries facing grief, cancer, caregiving, social isolation, death & dying, and injustice through Healing Circles Global.

Kicked off the Racial Healing Initiative, with \$1 million in funding over three years to strengthen the capacity of more than 200 retreat centers in the Retreat Center Collaboration to advance racial healing and systemic change.

Brought together four groups of cancer patients in Sanctuary—the online model for the Commonweal Cancer Help Program—and gathered the first in-person program in 18 months in October.

Brought facilitated discussions about visual art to an estimated 50,000 learners of all ages world wide through Virtual Thinking Strategies' trainings and Look Clubs.

Offered more than 30 webinar conversations—and then two hybrid in-person/webinar events—to The New School audiences with a growing and diverse group of hosts, guests, topics, and audiences who watched or listened to recordings more than 300,000 times in 2021.

Supported resilience through contemplative practices for leaders and grassroots networks in the Global South (Tanzania, Chile, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Malaysia, the Philippines, and more) through \$187,000 in a regranting initiative supported by the Ho Foundation in Hong Kong.

Co-authored manuscripts about the need to regulate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), published by the Global PFAS Science Panel in a number of high-profile scientific journals through the Biomonitoring Resource Center, with efforts to inform European policies on these chemicals.

Received a \$500,000 seed grant to help young adults focus on community development across differences through the Innovative Learning and Living Institute program.

Produced two Last Acts of Kindness: Care and Compassion at the End of Life weekend workshops, in collaboration with the MERI Center at University of California San Francisco.

Reached 500 individuals and key stakeholders to raise public awareness about the needs of aging and dying prisoners through the Humane Prison Hospice Project—a program that enhances prison culture by training prisoners to be compassionate end-of-life caregivers and grief companions.

Educated 40,000 visitors a month about environmental health issues on the Because Health website—and held 38 webinars for policymakers, academics, health professionals, and advocates through the Collaborative on Health and the Environment.

Received \$175,000 in MacArthur Foundation funding for Somos El Poder, a mentorship program focusing on practices and methods in fundraising for Latinx-focused non-profits.

Helped individuals to build personal and community resilience through Resilience Wayfinding, a new program offered through Natura Institute for Ecology and Medicine.

Generated 140 megawatt hours of electric power through our photovoltaic array, and explored building a microgrid that could allow Commonweal to operate during power outages, charge vehicles, power emergency equipment, and allow us to operate and be of service during catastrophic grid failures such as during an earthquake or cyberattack.

With the help of your generous donations and support, our programs offered healing, support, and resources to hundreds of thousands of people world wide in 2021.

COMMONWEAL PROGRAMS

Beyond Conventional Cancer Therapies

Center for Creative Community

- Fall Gathering
- Power of Hope
- Taproot

Democracy Together

Center for Healing and Liberation

Collaborative on Health and Environment

- Because Health

Commonweal Biomonitoring Resource Center

Commonweal Cancer Help Program

- Bay Area Young Survivors Sanctuary

Commonweal Retreat Center

Communitas

Foundation for Embodied Medicine

Gift of Compassion

- Migrant Support Project

Healing Circles

- Healing Circles Bay Area
- Healing Circles Global
- Healing Circles Houston
- Healing Circles Langley
- Healing Circles Healthcare
- Courage & Renewal Network of Northern California

Health & Environment Action Research Team

- Healthy Environment & Endocrine Disruption Strategies
- Health and Environment Literacy Project
- Diabetes and the Environment Project
- CovidStrategies

Healing Yoga Foundation

Humane Prison Hospice Project

Integrative Law Institute

Juvenile Justice Program

Natura Institute for Ecology and Medicine at Commonweal Garden

The New School at Commonweal

Partners for Youth Empowerment

Regenerative Design Institute

The Resilience Project

Retreat Center Collaboration

Visual Thinking Strategies

FISCALLY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Center for Dying and Living

Innovative Learning and Living Institute

Kids and Caregivers

Kinship Blooms

Movement Liberation

Octavia Fund

project SOUL

SafetyNEST Science

Somos El Poder

Syntropy Healing and Research

West Marin Climate Action

West Marin Review

OMEGA Funders Network

COMMONWEAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Bookoff, Treasurer

Catherine Dodd

Jaune Evans

Katherine Fulton

Michael Lerner, Chair

Angela Oh, Vice Chair

Lisa Simms Booth

[Commonweal.org](https://www.commonweal.org)

Healing with Cancer

Work at the Heart of Commonweal

Oren often says that the Commonweal Cancer Help Program lies at the heart of Commonweal's work. I believe that to be true. This cancer work has been the central dharmic work of my life.

Cancer touches almost every family, and close to half of all Americans. Finding paths to deep healing with cancer is a worthy purpose. It turns out that these paths also serve with almost every other kind of human wound or loss. It is just that a cancer diagnosis carries a particular freight in our culture that deepens the wound and deepens the capacity for soul response.



HILLARY GOIDELL

We held our first week-long Cancer Help Program retreat in October 1976. I've co-led almost all of the 212 retreats since. When COVID-19 locked us down, we knew this central work needed to continue.

The Sanctuary program was born out of that necessity. Sanctuary is a virtual program, based on the Cancer Help Program model. The month-long retreats meet virtually three times a week for two hours. Our four retreats to date have been profoundly effective. Sanctuary also enables people from across the country and beyond to participate who could never come to Commonweal.

In Sanctuary, we take only six participants at a time (we take eight participants in the in-person Cancer Help Program). There's something about the smaller

size that we think works better on-line. Sanctuary is headed by Arlene Allsman, who also coordinates the Cancer Help Program, and includes psychotherapist Natalie Portis, physician John Laird, M.D., and yoga teacher Angela Madonia.

Meanwhile, our Healing Circles Global work has seen incredible growth over the past year. The impulse for Healing Circles grew directly out of the Cancer Help Program, and now includes circles for people with cancer as well as people with many other forms of loss. Healing Circles Global is co-led by Diana Lindsay and Oren Slozberg with a deeply gifted leadership team and circle leaders around the world.

The fourth dimension of our cancer work is our Beyond Conventional Cancer Therapies website: bcct.ngo. The site will be reborn in the first quarter of 2022 as a brand new website: cancerchoices.org. This has been an immense project, co-led by Miki Scheidel and Nancy Hepp, with a very able staff that includes senior researcher Laura Pole and researcher/writer Maria Williams. We have the best information on integrative cancer therapies on the web with peer reviewed evaluations of more than 90 integrative therapies. The new site will make it far more accessible.

As I write in October, we are completing our 212th in-person Cancer Help Program, the first in 18 months. We have moved the retreat outdoors with rigorous safety precautions.

Natalie Portis is our psychotherapist and co-leader on this retreat. Arlene Allsman has done an extraordinary job moving the entire retreat outdoors. The power of nature, the full moon, and the first rain on this parched land in months have all contributed to the deep beauty of this renewed Cancer Help Program.

We are grateful beyond words for your 35 years of dedicated support.

—Michael Lerner, Founder, Commonweal Cancer Help Program

cancerhelpprogram.org

Healing Together in Anxious Times

Healing Circles Completes First Year of Free Online Circles for All

In response to the continued social isolation and anxiety that has occurred during this pandemic, our Healing Circles online programs have exploded.

We started in March 2020 with the launch of online circles in Bolinas and at Healing Circles Langley. Surprised by the depth that could occur in online circles, we committed to building an online program that could support anyone, anywhere, at no cost.

A growing and committed group of people, with a tremendous amount of personal and professional experience in serving others, have joined the trainings from more than **37 of the United States, six Canadian provinces, and 26 other countries on six continents.**

In our first year, we provided **11,795 healing support service hours** for those facing grief, cancer, caregiving, social isolation, death & dying, and injustice. We also offered our first profession-oriented (healthcare), geographically specialized (Europe), and language-based (German) teams. We are launching expressive arts circles and learning circles in a variety of subjects.



Healing Circles meet in Berlin: Max Wind, Franziska Musche, Visheka Amore, and Leona Petereit

SUSANNE FEST

Our volunteers have contributed **6,000 hours in service** to the public, training programs, team planning, and their own individual growth. This is a labor of love and service. Although we volunteer our time, we gain back a sense of belonging to community and meaning along with the health benefits of being a volunteer.

—Diana Lindsay, Co-Director, Healing Circles Global / Director, Healing Circles Langley

Healing Circles Healthcare

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare workers labored in challenging environments. Now, the complexity of responding to the pandemic has added many new dilemmas: fears about infection for self and loved ones, concerns about access to medical supplies and personal protection, increased workload demands and, most important, witnessing the intense suffering of others, including patients, families, and fellow staff.

The Healing Circles Healthcare Leadership was formed in 2018 to promote and support the training of a Healing Circles peer-led model to nurses and health professionals. With the onset of COVID-19 in early 2020 and the associated unprecedented challenges, the Healing Circles Healthcare Leadership identified an urgent need to provide additional personal and professional resources to promote resilience and recall professional meaning. Through a generous Jonas Philanthropies grant, 84 nurses in 16 organizations were trained.

In 2021, Healing Circles Healthcare partnered with Healing Circles Houston to provide Healing Circle training to 34 hospital-based Chaplains throughout the Houston Methodist Hospital system—the first of its kind—focused on Chaplains. We continue to receive requests from organizations for Healing Circle training and support.

In addition to organizational training, Healing Circles Healthcare Leadership, through Healing Circles Global, supports five weekly Healthcare Circles for Healthcare Professionals as well as an additional Healthcare Faculty-focused circle. Healing Circles continues to provide a place of refuge, deep listening, self-reflection, and loving accompaniment, which expands one's capacity for healing and well-being.

—Leslie Carveth, Program Director, Healing Circles Healthcare

healingcirclesglobal.org

Sponsoring Social Justice at Commonweal

Commonweal's list of fiscally sponsored programs is growing. These small programs are doing great work in areas that Commonweal champions, work that we feel is important to incubate and support. This year, let us introduce you to some of the incredible social justice work being done by our fiscally sponsored programs.

Innovative Learning and Living Institute

M. RAKO FABIONAR, DIRECTOR

With \$500,000 in funding from the Fetzer Institute, the Innovative Learning and Living Institute is poised to design and pilot a six-month residency program for young adults 20-25 years old across social, economic, racial, political, and geographic divides. A collaboration between Commonweal, Commonweal's Retreat Center Collaboration, and Fetzer, the program will offer young people an immersive, living-learning opportunity to create deep community and collectively envision and create healthier futures.



Movement Liberation

VALERIE CHAFOGRACK, FOUNDER

Movement Liberation directly supports BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) to participate in somatic, conscious dance workshops and retreats facilitated by educators of color. Through mindfulness, embodiment practices, and connection with nature, they offer tools and principles through which people can build liberation within their bodies, regenerate their very roots and cultivate wellbeing and resiliency in inclusive healing spaces, within a supportive community. dancesanctuary.com/movement-liberation



Kids and Caregivers

NANCY NETHERLAND, DIRECTOR

Kids and Caregivers has a mission to compassionately support, educate, and empower caregivers of extraordinary children living with chronic, complex health conditions. They educate to empower, support through sharing, and offer online and face-to-face workshops, mentoring, toolkits, education, training, and peer-based and professional support activities. kidsandcaregivers.com



project SOUL

JENYNG WU, DESIGNER/FACILITATOR

SOUL works to reframe conversations and unlock innovative and creative problem solving. Their work allows organizations and individuals to build capacity in new ways and recreate structures and systems that are more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive. projectsoul.us



Kinship Blooms

M. RAKO FABIONAR AND JORDAN LUFTIG, DIRECTORS

Kinship Blooms offers refuge, inspiration, and training to visionary organizations, communities, and change networks during this intense time of transition and transformation. They offer services in leadership development, equity and inclusion, communities of practice, convenings, empathy and bridging divides, and regenerative currencies and the future of value exchange. kinshipblooms.life



Somos El Poder

ARMANDO ZUMAYA, FOUNDER

Somos El Poder is dedicated to improving and growing fundraising at Latinx focused nonprofits in our nation. They work with any Latinx-focused non-profit regardless of size or budget. They provide support, professional development, best practices, training, and more. someselpoder.org



Syntropy Healing and Research

DR. RASHEEDA HAWK, PROGRAM MANAGER

Syntropy Health and Research uses an asset-based approach to address the question "What makes and keeps us healthy?" compared to "what makes us ill?" The program hosts a children's gardening program, and works to develop and mentor youth "community scientists" who will help to degrade toxins found in the soil in the local neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. syntropyhealing.org



The Racial Healing Initiative

Bringing Equity to the Retreat Experience

Retreat centers hold a unique role in catalyzing movement for social justice and social change. They are places where personal and social transformation take place, where retreatants can go inward to do the deep work of healing and then bring greater depth and skill to their lives in the wider world.

In 2018, Commonweal and the Fetzer Institute joined to launch the Retreat Center Collaboration, which works to forge new ways of being in the world, to be exemplary stewards of the natural world, and to bring equity to the retreat experience by developing and piloting innovative programs at urban and rural retreat centers. The Retreat Center Collaboration has a network of more than 200 retreat centers in more than 40 states and provinces across the United States and Canada.

In 2021, Commonweal, Fetzer, the Retreat Center Collaboration, and the Center for Healing and Liberation collaborated to develop the Racial Healing Initiative. The collaboration was then awarded a generous three-year \$1 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to launch the initiative.

The Racial Healing Initiative will be grounded in retreat centers across rural and urban geographies in the United States. Together, the collaborative will guide retreats and small groups on-site, virtually, and within local communities of centers in the Retreat Center Collaboration's network. Resources will also include trainings, technical assistance, and support to strengthen the capacity of retreat centers to advance racial healing and systemic change.



Most retreat centers are largely white-led and serve mainly white retreatants. I know from direct experience the power of skills and capacities developed in retreat spaces. When I lived at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, I touched into deeper perspectives that have fed into my ongoing evolution over many years. Stepping back from the swirl of daily life into a space of cultivation and reflection is necessary and life-sustaining.

I also know from direct experience the challenge of being the only Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) person in a retreat space. It can be exhausting and isolating to move among others' unexamined assumptions and microaggressions. Retreat cultures frequently do not speak to the lived experience of someone who walks in a Black body in this country.

There is a movement within BIPOC communities right now—in the face of COVID, systemic oppression and extreme stress—to respond to our deep need for rest and self-care. Retreat centers can be refuges: spaces of healing, rest, renewal, and discovery.

With this initiative, we will support retreat centers in creating ways in which everyone can feel a sense of belonging. We embrace the work and the possibilities ahead.

—Victoria Santos, Director, Center for Healing and Liberation

centerforhealingandliberation.com
retreatcentercollaboration.org

Social Artists in Residence at Commonweal

Our **Retreat Center** is an incredible resource for bringing groups together to find peace and healing on our land. In July of 2021, after more than a year of being closed, the Retreat Center opened again to host residencies to small “shelter-in-place” cohorts of mostly BIPOC social artists and change makers. Through the Social Artist in Residence (SOAR) program, more than 15 social artists came to Commonweal, finding the space to rest, renew, reflect, and collaborate. These cohorts included a Latinx activist, an indigenous curandera/healer, a filmmaker, and many more. For more information about the SOAR program contact Victoria Santos at victoria@commonweal.org.

Commonweal Builds Resilience for the Global Polycrisis

The global polycrisis is made up of the dozens of different stressors—environmental, social, technological, and financial/economic—that are changing our world rapidly and beyond recognition.

There is no way to avoid it. We can try to bend it toward better outcomes. We'll need to navigate it to survive.

President Biden referred to the polycrisis as “cascading crises” in his inaugural address. The National Intelligence Council echoed him in its quadrennial project of the threats facing the United States.

The term polycrisis was coined by a French social theorist. It was picked up in the European Union to describe the multiple crises they face. We were among the first to coin the phrase “global polycrisis.” If you google global polycrisis, it takes you to our Omega.ngo website for the Resilience Funders Network and to ResilienceProject.ngo at Commonweal.

We've worked on the global polycrisis in different ways for over 30 years. When we started our newest iteration four years ago, we met incredulity. Then COVID-19 and climate change became poster children for the polycrisis. Now acceptance of its reality is growing everywhere.

What can we do? There is no simple answer. But here are four questions.

1. How can we bend the arc of history toward a better world?
2. What skills and resources do we need in these troubled times?

3. How do we build resilience to meet a future that threatens basic human needs?
4. What are the inner resources we need to respond to our condition with courage and creativity?

This is some of what we are doing at Commonweal:

- We've placed resilience at the heart of our work.
- We're working with people, organizations, and communities that share our concerns.
- We're helping build the field of global polycrisis studies and action.

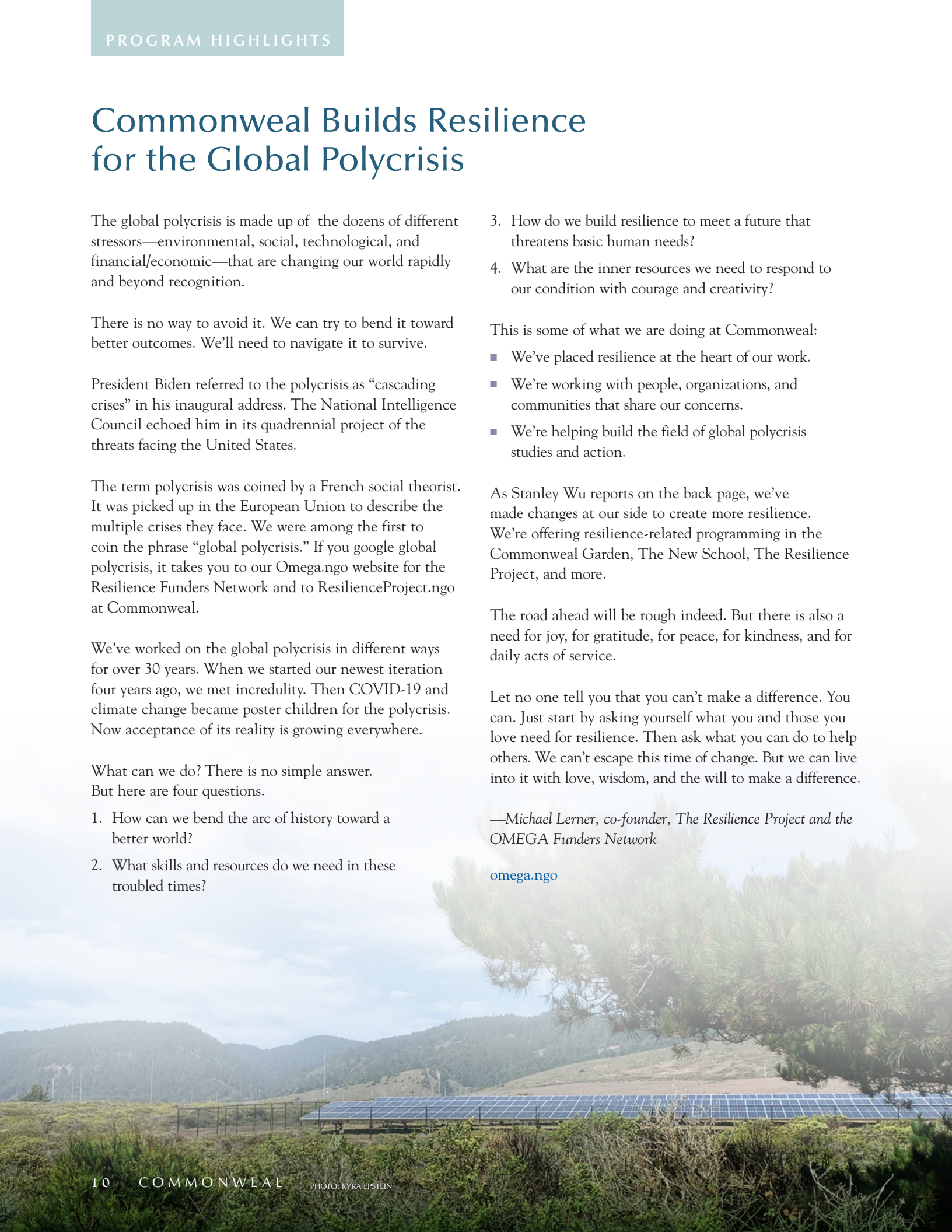
As Stanley Wu reports on the back page, we've made changes at our side to create more resilience. We're offering resilience-related programming in the Commonweal Garden, The New School, The Resilience Project, and more.

The road ahead will be rough indeed. But there is also a need for joy, for gratitude, for peace, for kindness, and for daily acts of service.

Let no one tell you that you can't make a difference. You can. Just start by asking yourself what you and those you love need for resilience. Then ask what you can do to help others. We can't escape this time of change. But we can live into it with love, wisdom, and the will to make a difference.

—Michael Lerner, co-founder, *The Resilience Project and the OMEGA Funders Network*

omega.ngo



WITH GRATITUDE

We express our deep gratitude to the following organizations that have supported Commonweal this year:

Alberta S. Kimball – Mary L. Anhaltzer Foundation • The Altman 2011 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust • American Endowment Foundation • Apple Matching Gifts Program • As You Sow • The Bancroft Foundation • Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund • The Barinaga Goodman Fund • Bella Rosa Coffee • Black Mountain Circle • Boston University • The California Wellness Foundation • CLC Kramer Foundation • The Clorox Company Foundation • The Cold Mountain Fund of RSF Social Finance • The Commonwealth Fund • Community Initiatives • Cox-Vadakan Foundation • Dancers' Group Inc • David Foster Wallace Literary Trust • Distracted Globe Foundation • Dune Road Foundation • East Bay Community Foundation • Environmental Action Committee of West Marin • Exelixis • Feibelman Family Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation • Fetzner Institute • The Fred Gellert Family Foundation • Frey Family Foundation • George T. Cameron Educational Foundation • GLIDE, LLC • The Heinz Endowments • The Hobson Family Foundation • Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation • Jenifer Altman Foundation • Jewish Communal Fund • Larson Legacy Foundation • Lloyd Symington Foundation • lululemon • Marin Community Foundation • Marlati Family Fund • Matthew London and Sylvia Wen Gaia Fund • Merritt and Pamela Sher Family Fund • Mobius • Muriel Murch Full Circle Endowment Fund • O'Donnell Iselin Foundation • Open Field Farm • The Pincus Family Fund • The Randleigh Foundation • The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation • Rockefeller Brothers Fund • RSF Seed Fund • Scheidel Foundation • The Schmidt Family Foundation • Shadetree Multicultural Foundation • Silicon Valley Community Foundation • Social Good Fund • Sonoma County Rises • Star Route Farm • Stinson/Bolinas Community Fund • Straus Family Creamery • Stupski Foundation • Sunshine Polka-dot Foundation • Susie Tompkins Buell Fund • Sylvan C. Coleman Trust • Szekely Family Foundation • The DeSantis Family Charitable Fund • Tides Foundation • University of California San Diego • Urbanek Family Foundation • Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation • W.K. Kellogg Foundation • West Family Foundation • West Marin Fund • The Whitman Institute • Young Women Empowered • Zellerbach Family Foundation

We offer special thanks and gratitude to the following Commonweal Friends for their generous contributions of \$1000 and above during the last six months. A full list of all of our donors can be found on our website under "About Us."

Joan Abrahamson & Jonathan Aronson	Jeff Chartrand	Neil Gendel	Gary Kelson	Mindel Family	Jesse Smith & Annice Kenan Smith
Rebecca Adelman	Timothy Clark	Anne Germanacos	Carol Kerley & Linda Dunham	Peter & Anna Marie Morton	Jim Spady
Sonali Aggarwal	Susan Cooley	Bing Gong & Eleanore Despina	Lee Klinger Lesser	Judy & Richard Nagelberg	David Spaw
Robert & Carol Baird	Susan Cummins & Rose Roven	Cynthia Graham	Marty Krasney	Leslie Neale	Elizabeth Starmann
Deborah Baker	Ann & Bob DeBusk	Carol & Frank Gruen	Trish & Larry Kubal	Angela Oh & Ying Ming Tu	Mary Stephens
Carol Banquer	Becky & Miguel Delgado	Ilene Gudelsky	Alexander Kushner	Joseph Osborn	Mary Ann Tebbe
Lindsay Bellows	Gun Denhart	Thordis & Gary Gulden	Ellen Labelle	April Paletsas & Holly Strasbaugh	Candace Tkachuck & Donald Guthrie
Joelle Benioff	Mike & Nanette Dentinger	Wendy Hawkins	Robin Laub	Margaret & Pete Perrone	Zita van Wees-Iyer
Nancy Bertelsen	Alex Dorsey	Jeannette & Grant Heidrich	Kate Levinson & Steve Costa	Maureen Redl	Lucy Waletzky
Michael Bien	Peggy Dulany	Ruth Hennig	Molly Levitt	Lilli Rey	Tom & Claudia Walker
Birnbaum Family	Richard Eagan & Elizabeth Ostrow	Meg & Gary Hirshberg	Sacha Levy	Marina Richards	Caroline & Fong Wang
Jill Blair & Fay Twersky	Charley Ehmann	Mike & Laura Hislop	David Hochschild & Cynthia Li	Adam & Adina Rose	Jenn Wang
Mary Bogardus	Ulrike Faubert	Thomas Hoynes	Diana Lindsay	Alice Rose	Werdegard Family
Terry & Penelope Bourk	Susanne Fest	Jenny Hudson	Lynnaea Lumbard & Richard Paine	Scott "Skip" & Shirley Rosenbloom	Barbara Wiener
David Brandon	Kristina Flanagan	John Hunting	Peter Lyman	Pankaj & Seema Shah	Serita Winthrop
Steve & Marjorie Burr	Katherine Fulton & Katharine Kunst	Mark Jensen	Geraldine & Marco Magarelli	Fred Sherman	
Alison Carlson	Sid & Nancy Ganis	Melita Sun Jung	Petra Martin	Meg Simonds & Mark Butler	
Ross Chapin & Deborah Koff-Chapin		Rebecca Katz	Doris Meyer		

COMMONWEAL

P.O. Box 316
Bollinas, CA 94924

On the Commonwealth Site this Year

The **Commonwealth Resilience Project** has been focused on our site, our work, and our community. We are exploring how to foster resilience and respond to the polycrisis, the great unraveling, and the many other names of this time.

Fire is Commonwealth's closest existential threat. Earthquakes are never far, water shortages are very real, and the list grows. Drinking water, electricity, communications, and the infrastructure our work depends on are vulnerable. Some of the steps we have taken in 2021 to increase our resilience include:

- **Planning for fire:** in conversation with the Bollinas Fire Department, we're removing fuel loads, planning for portable water and pumps (as a fire truck of sorts), and developing a set of water tanks and hydrants for suppression and perhaps water collection in the future.
- **Increasing energy security:** this year we produced 140 megawatt hours of electricity with our photovoltaic array, and we are exploring a microgrid that could allow Commonwealth to operate during power outages—charging vehicles, powering emergency equipment, and allowing us to operate and be of service during catastrophic grid failures such as during an earthquake or cyberattack.
- **Developing community resilience skills:** Anna O'Malley and James Stark created Resilience Wayfinding, a five part course on the big picture challenges and developing inner and outer skills for



resilience. They've hosted Community Medicine Circles, about how connection with the natural world heals us, and the Art of Vitality, focused on transformative well-being and vitality on personal, interpersonal, and ecological levels.

- **Deepening and broadening our relationships with the emergency response community:** Ken Adams, our amateur radio guru, has participated in situational drills and emergency scenarios with the San Geronimo Valley Emergency Readiness Group and West Marin Disaster Council, among others.

—Stanley Wu, Director, The Resilience Project / Program Coordinator, OMEGA Funders Network

resilienceproject.ngo