



TOGETHER RISING

2020 IMPACT REPORT

REFLECTING ON 2020

*Message from our Founder and President
Glennon Doyle*

The last year was incredibly difficult for so many families. When the pandemic started, we told you, "Together Rising was made for just such a time as this." What follows are the stories of how all of us continued to show up to prove just that.

As you read, I hope you feel the collective love, compassion, and strength that has helped so many families over the last year. Together, we have continued to build the world we believe in.

Let's believe and build together, forever.

In Love, Fury, and Relentless Hope,
Glennon



Critical assistance for families impacted by natural disasters

Throughout 2020, Together Rising invested a total of \$1,223,069.68 in critical assistance for families impacted by natural disasters.

In January, we deployed \$661,047.88 to seven boots-on-the-ground organizations in response to the bushfire crisis in Australia. Later that month, Puerto Rico was hit with the biggest earthquake the island had seen in over a century. Together Rising deployed \$110,000 to pay for urgently needed medicines, to supply power back-up and lights, to equip mobile health outreach units, to provide food and temporary shelter, and to support a hub of medical services.

In March, several tornadoes ripped through Tennessee, killing at least 24 people and leaving hundreds of families temporarily or permanently displaced from their homes. Together Rising invested \$50,000 in emergency relief and long-term holistic community-based recovery in the aftermath of the devastation, which included providing temporary housing and home repairs; food, water, energy, and clean-up assistance; document replacement services; and school supplies, books, and educational expenses.

***\$1,223,069.68 invested in
critical assistance for families
impacted by natural disasters***



Photo courtesy of Direct Relief

In August, a derecho storm with 100 mile per hour winds swept across the Midwest, devastating Cedar Rapids, Iowa, leveling several apartment complexes housing hundreds of refugees, and decimating more than 8,000 homes. Together Rising deployed \$50,000 to keep a food pantry open, provide critical supplies, and establish temporary housing for those needing shelter.

In September, the western part of the United States burned as wildfires raged through California and other states. Together Rising deployed \$250,000 to provide thousands of people with respirator masks, oxygen concentrators, medicines, and medical supplies, as well as urgent support for first responders. Later in September, Hurricane Laura devastated hundreds of thousands of families throughout Louisiana, Southeast Texas, and Arkansas. Together Rising invested \$70,000 to place temporary tarp roofs, remove damaged belongings, chainsaw trees, and remediate mold to salvage as many families' homes as possible.

Standing with people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

After the pandemic hit in March, hundreds of families in need of support wrote to Together Rising. Thanks to the continuous generosity of our recurring donors, TEAM LOVE, we were prepared and ready to help when the crisis hit.

In 2020, Together Rising distributed \$1,109,204.49 total in emergency assistance to families amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, including \$416,990.84 in direct grants to 440 families and individuals. Your support helped families like Callie's. Because Callie couldn't earn enough income to afford daycare for her four-year-old and two-year-old children, her husband was the sole income earner in their home. When her husband's job shut down because of COVID-19, they did not have funds to last them even two weeks. They were running out of food and diapers and were a month behind on their electricity bill when Callie wrote to Together Rising: "We need help." Callie could not believe it when a check arrived from you in her mailbox.

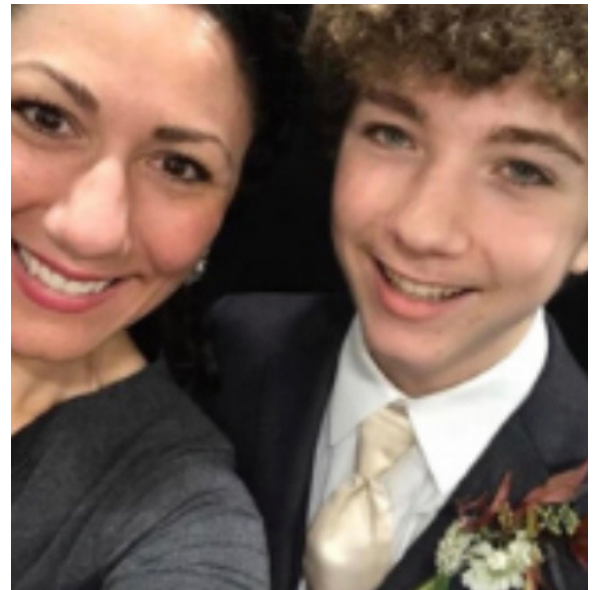


Maureen* had been a regular TEAM LOVE giver to Together Rising, always grateful to share what she could with people who needed a little extra. However, when her husband was furloughed due to COVID-19, Maureen worried anxiously about paying bills and keeping food on the table for her three little ones.

Just as Maureen has shown up for other families over the last year through Together Rising, you showed up for her family by providing an entire month's worth of groceries.

Tara is a single mom of two, one of whom has Down Syndrome and an immunodeficiency. When Tara was laid off, she didn't know how she was going to pay her bills and keep her little ones safe and healthy. You sent your love and help to cover the costs of her electric bill and rent.

Like Tara, Megan was a single mom. After her business closed due to the pandemic, she was unable to pay rent for the apartment she shares with her son. You helped her make rent. When she heard the news that we were helping her, she burst into tears. She wrote a note of gratitude to you, vowing that when she's back on her feet, she will be back to invest in this community once again.



*Some names have been changed to protect privacy.

\$1,109,204.49 distributed directly to families and individuals and partner organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

\$29

AVERAGE MONTHLY
DONATION

6,420

TOTAL RECURRING GIVERS

570

FAMILIES ASSISTED

Reuniting separated families & protecting detained children

Throughout 2020, Together Rising invested \$1,029,400.91 in grants to further support the reunification of families who were separated at the U.S. border and the protection of detained children. These investments supported the critical work of locating parents who were deported without their children, advocacy and support in all detention matters including food, clothing, and hygiene items, additional staffing capacity, and research efforts to drive advocacy to reunite families.

In January, we asked you for the \$80,200 needed to help reunify and support six asylum-seeking families. After their children were taken away from them, the parents were then illegally deported without their children. These parents had been separated from their children for almost two years and were losing hope they would ever see their babies again. Within ninety minutes, 1,905 of you had met that goal. You showed up once again to turn our collective heartbreak into action.

Your \$80,200 went to the immediate needs of those six families—including mental health services to help the parents and children cope with the trauma of their excruciating separation.

But you didn't stop there. You continued to give. In 48 hours, you gave a total of \$175,274.08. The additional funds were deployed to continue reunifying, supporting, and advocating for the hundreds of families who were still separated from each other.

To date, you have given \$10,082,123.29 to reunite families separated at the border and protect detained children.

Holiday gifts for more than 800 families



Photo courtesy of Al Otro Lado



Photo courtesy of One Spirit

In our tenth annual Holiday Hands program hosted in November, we matched members from our community with families served by three of our long-standing partners—City Living NY, One Spirit, and Nido de Esperanza—to distribute \$231,058.12 in gifts to more than eight hundred families.

For families living in the Pine Ridge reservation, your gifts meant that:

Moms could dress their babies in thick clothes and tuck little ones under comforters to keep them warm;
Grandmothers could stitch star quilts on sewing machines to earn income to support their families; and
Veterans could keep warm by bundling up in coats, boots, and gloves.

Thank you for showing up for these 800 families through Holiday Hands.

TOTAL GIFTS DISTRIBUTED

In 2020, Together Rising distributed \$4,590,996.00 directly to individuals, families, and organizations.

\$4.59M

Distributed to individuals, families
& boots-on-the-ground
organizations

92%

Percent of expenses spent on
Programs and Services

PROGRAM PERCENTAGE FOR 2020

In 2020, 92% of our functional
expenses went to Programs directly
assisting people in crisis.

TOTAL GIFTS DISTRIBUTED BY YEAR

As of 12/31/2020, Together Rising has distributed \$23,577,652.30 to people in crisis.

