

# Fund Love Corporate Statement on Racism and Race Relations

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

During these difficult times, Fund Love remains committed to helping people live longer, healthier lives. As a health services organization, founded on values that require health equity and racial equality, we are both disheartened and infuriated by George Floyd's murder.

Today, Fund Love is asking that all of us step back and think about a new way forward. We are not making enough progress with the same old conversation.

As proof of this, please be reminded of Freddie Gray and Sam Dubose, of Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Terence Crutcher, Alton Sterling, Jamar Clark, Jeremy McDole, William Chapman II, Walter Scott, Eric Harris, and of Tamir Rice and Akai Gurley, of Michael Brown, Eric Gardner, Toni McDade, Aiyana Mo'Nay Stanley-Jones, Pamela Turner, Jordan Edwards, Rekia Boyd, Tanisha Anderson, Laquan McDonald, and of Ricky Ball, Sandra Bland, Michelle Cusseaux, Keith Lemont Scott, Korryn Gaines, Anthony Lamar Smith, Sylville Smith, Atatiana Jefferson, John Crawford, Shantel Davis, Trayvon Martin, and countless other Black people, who were all victims of police brutality.

Let's stand together and change the conversation. To start, we must acknowledge that racism is about ignorance and hate, which also makes it about human behavior and culture. In the context of policing, yes, procedures and training are important, however, the new conversation needs to be even more focused on cultural norms and expectations, the translation of those norms into new behaviors and laws, and the consequences for brutality committed by those charged with enforcing the laws their very conduct violates. It needs to be about accountability.

Let's be clear, the large majority of officers are good people, who serve our communities and protect us at great personal risk; this is not about police officers versus the rest of us. This is about eliminating hate and ignorance in our police departments and in society as a whole.

In addition to holding people accountable for acts of hate and ignorance, we must also require and promote continuous learning about Black history and the histories of all races. As an example, we are still relatively ignorant about "health equity" in this country. The term can no longer be a buzzword. Everyone must understand its origin and the potential solutions for ensuring access to high quality health services for all. We must understand that those with less need more, and those with more will need to actively advocate for change, and perhaps even sacrifice for the greater good.

Changing the conversation will not be easy, but the alternative is certainly untenable. The great poet James Baldwin said it well:

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."*

Fund Love will continue to support the communities we serve, at all costs. We will continue to promote health equity and racial justice in everything that we do. Let's extend our hands again, face the future together, and change the conversation to one that's about empathy, love, and accountability.

On behalf of the Fund Love team,



Michael J. Zaccagnino  
Founder and Lead Director