October 15, 2018

Dear Friend,

Hope. It is a word bandied about in so many different contexts, personally, politically, spiritually. When facing a challenge, of any scope, hope is critical. We have to be able to envision positive change to spend time, money, energy and emotion on any given project.

We all lose hope from time to time. It is inevitable and understandable. There is a reason there are so many tales about pushing through what seems unachievable -- David vs Goliath; Odysseus, the Little Engine that Could, even Harry Potter. At those moments, it can be the words, actions or leadership of one individual that helps us push through the challenge, the heartache, the seeming wall of impossibility. Sarah was one of those people for many of us.

Sarah mentored Maureen Drouin when she worked for the Northern Forest Alliance, "Sarah meant a lot to me as my first supervisor after Green Corps and I'm honored to carry on her legacy at Maine Conservation Voters." As Executive Director, Maureen is building Maine’s environmental movement into a powerful political force.

By investing in Sarah's former colleagues, mentees and the next generation of environmental organizers, together we keep hope alive for people in communities across our country.

The inspiration of Sarah's legacy drives us to take an extra step, make an extra push to achieve not only our part, but to stand in for the good work she would have achieved.

This year, in Sarah's memory, our contributions are:

- Investing in a team of young Green Corps trainees who are learning to harness the power of organizing so they will be able to build and run effective organizations and campaigns that inspire the popular support and political action we need to achieve positive change.
- Supporting Maine Conservation Alliance to expand their grassroots organizing and field programs to give Maine people the tools and information they need to get involved in critical environmental decisions.
- Helping Bear Yuba Land Trust protect land and provide the kind of outdoor experiences Sarah valued so highly.

Dan Rather recently noted, "Over the course of my life, I have seen the fever of the moment break and our national direction reset. This will happen again. And who will be there energized and ready to lead us into a better future?"

The Sarah Forslund Fund is sponsoring the individuals and organizations ready to lead. Sarah would expect nothing less.
The Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership

We invite you to invest in our collective future-- in training organizers who will provide hope and action and in bolstering the groups leading us towards a more positive future.

Contributions can be made via check using the enclosed envelope. Alternatively, you may go online to the following link and view a short video, donate, and/or easily share the Fund’s message with others who may be interested and inspired: www.sierrafund.org/sarah-forslund-fund.

With Appreciation,

Laura Olsen
Board Chair

P.S. Sarah's legacy continues to inspire young organizers not only through the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership, but also through the Public Interest Network's Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship. Fifteen years ago, the Public Interest Network established the Fellowship to honor the spirit of Sarah. Please see the attached handout to learn more and read about this year's Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship Award Winner.
Fifteen years ago, the Public Interest Network established the Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship to honor the spirit of Sarah Forslund. The Sierra Fund has generously offered us the opportunity to share an update on the award with the family, friends, friends of friends and others in the activist community who support Sarah's legacy. Note this award is different than the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership at The Sierra Fund, which makes grants to organizations and campaigns engaged in bringing about critical environmental change. The Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship was established by the organizations Sarah worked to build. Each year, an award is made to an up-and-coming organizer to help keep Sarah's spirit alive as these organizers embark on environmental careers. The Fellowship provides public recognition of the recipient's early environmental achievements and partial funding for their first job placement after Green Corps. A plaque with a list of all of the recipients is hung in the national headquarters of The Public Interest Network in Denver, Colorado.

Sarah Forslund's death in June 2002 was a tremendous blow to her family, friends and to our family of activists and organizers.

For those of you not as familiar with Sarah's story, she was a member of the first class of Green Corps organizers in 1992-1993, and was named the Most Valuable Organizer of her class. After graduation, she went to work for Minnesota PIRG, the Endangered Species Coalition in the Midwest, the Northern Forest Alliance in Vermont, and the California Futures Network. In 1999, Sarah returned to Green Corps as Associate Director, where she helped double the size of the program.

She was an exceptional young woman who touched many of our lives as a fellow organizer and as a friend. She was an inspiration not only to recent classes of Green Corps organizers, but also to the more veteran organizers among us.

To honor her spirit and work, organizations within the Public Interest Network donated the proceeds from one day of our summer door-to-door canvass outreach program in 2002 and in 2005 to partially endow an advocacy and organizing fellowship in Sarah's memory.

**Announcement**

**Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship Award 2018 Winner — Shana Gallagher**

Shana Gallagher, Green Corps class of 2018, is this year’s Sarah Forslund Memorial Fellowship Award Winner. Shana is spending the fall working on Beto O’Rourke’s Senate campaign and will join the staff of U.S. PIRG as a Democracy Program Associate after the election. Shana is deeply motivated by environmental problems and the need to fundamentally transform our democracy and society in order to solve them. Throughout her Green Corps year, Shana has demonstrated unwavering commitment to social and environmental change, impressive organizing prowess, and fierce dedication to hitting all of her goals, no matter the obstacles.

Sarah Forslund

List of Recipients

2003 Erica Gary
2004 Sam Goldman
2007 Sam Landenwitsch
2008 Susannah Hook-Rodgers
2009 Bessie Schwarz
2010 Aaron Myran
2011 Blair Bowie
2012 Virginia Shannon Sargent
2013 Lucy Sedgwick Olena
2014 Hannah Adams
2017 Renee Wellman

The Public Interest Network includes the state Public Interest Research Groups, U.S. PIRG, state environmental groups in 29 states, Environment America, Environmental Action, Center for Public Interest Research, Toxics Action Center, Pesticide Watch, Green Century Capital Management, Green Corps, National Environmental Law Center, Frontier Group, Community Voters Project, Snowriders International, Accelerate Change, and IMPACT.

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