November 25, 2019

Dear Friend,

Our farm thermometer just dipped below 5 degrees for the 2nd night in a row in early November! Early onset winter with record breaking cold in half the country and another round of major fires in California – yes, we are experiencing the impacts of climate change.

It can feel overwhelming, but Greta Thunberg, the young Swedish climate activist, reminds us that one person, starting with some clear focused actions indeed makes a difference. Climate strikes grew from her single student strike 14 months ago to millions of people striking in thousands of communities in over a hundred countries this fall.

A smile comes to my face as I wonder what Sarah would think of Greta. Perhaps the fierce determination in Greta’s face or the power in that small body echoes memories of Sarah. Though perhaps Sarah would share a bit of the guilt and regret I feel. Regret that we are letting this generation of Greta, of Wes, of all these amazing kids down – that we haven’t made the progress we’d hope for.

“We need to get angry and understand what is at stake. And then we need to transform that anger into action and to stand together united and just never give up.”
- Greta Thunberg, September 2019 interview with Amy Goodman

Greta certainly gives this middle-aged organizer turned farmer a kick in the @$#%! She is right, we shouldn’t look to her or her generation for hope or inspiration, but rather we should be leveraging all we can to work collectively to make the big shifts we need to make.

The Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership isn’t big and our grants are small, but they are targeted to make an impact. As Greta Thunberg has made abundantly clear, small acts matter. One piece of our collective action is to invest in community organizers and leaders who are making change and helping other people find their voice and engage.

With your support, this year the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership is providing grants to:

- **Green Corps** to train organizers to build and run effective campaigns that inspire the popular support and political action we need to achieve positive change
- **Community Alliance with Family Farmers** for their work on Climate Smart Farming, increasing local markets for small farmers and building sustainable food and farming systems that create more resilient family farms, communities and ecosystems.
- **Granite Chief Wilderness Protection League** to support this Citizens’ initiative to protect this amazing wilderness area in the Tahoe region.

The Sierra Fund ◆ 103 Providence Mine Road, Suite 101 ◆ Nevada City, CA 95959 ◆ www.sierrafund.org ◆ 530.265.8454
It isn’t enough. It isn’t all we each need to do, but it is one important step we can take together.

Perhaps like Greta, Sarah wouldn’t have wanted to be looked to for inspiration or to be a reason for action. But the truth is the passion, determination and leadership of some individuals do inspire us. Thinking of them moves us closer to our aspirations for action, for priorities, for how we live our lives. And I do think Sarah would find satisfaction in continuing to pull people together to act on critical environmental issues.

Let us continue to be inspired by Sarah, by Greta and by each other and invest in our collective future.

Contributions to the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership 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/donate.

With Appreciation,

Laura Olsen
Sarah Forslund Fund Board Chair
Regenerative Farmer, Green Mountain Girls Farm
Green Corps ’93 Alum