



What is Beyond the Write-off? The Importance of Giving in Absence of a Transaction

As we mark the end of 2022 and the beginning of a new year, Community Nature Connection invites you to join us in reflection. How can we develop a deeper culture of collective care in our work and find the time to build solidarity with sister organization's for long-term systemic transformation under late-stage capitalism if we are not intentional in our ways of being and practices? What lessons can we take forward in our work with communities impacted by racial, socioeconomic, and disability injustices?

Giving is an initial step toward transformation. The collective act of giving draws parallels to mutual aid, a community organizing practice that finds innovative ways to share resources. In his book *Mutual Aid*, Dean Spade defines the eponymous phrase as "the radical act of caring for each other while working to change the world." The act of altruistic giving to others in absences

of any reciprocity defines how we see the world, one filled with abundance, possibilities, and care. Our collective well-being is intertwined with one another, as well as other species on this planet.

Receiving is a powerful step toward a restorative act. The ability to be supported in our healing, restoration, or rejuvenation so that we may simply maintain or survive until we can get back to our endeavors is growth. A forest ecologist, Suzanne Simard noted that ‘it doesn’t make evolutionary sense for trees to behave like resource-grabbing individualists. That’s why [they’ve evolved to help their neighbors](#). Mother trees are a vital defense against many of these threats; when the biggest, oldest trees are cut down in a forest, the survival rate of younger trees is substantially diminished.

The two connected & put into regular practice can create lasting impact.

With this in mind, as we embark on a new year, let us form new relationships and strengthen the bonds of existing ones. Together, we can bring about justice and equity not only in the outdoors, but in all aspects of our lives. Building toward an inclusive, regenerative, equitable, and abundant Los Angeles community will take all of us. To this end, CNC is amplifying ten organizations — a range of incredible BIPOC-led organizations advancing equity and justice in Los Angeles – whose work we admired and making a \$200 contribution to support their amazing work. We invite you to match our support with a donation of your own before the end of the year, as well as into the future.

- [Hike Clerb](#) and [Black Men Hike](#) are outdoor advocacy groups working to create more inclusive spaces in nature.
- The Los Angeles [Spoonie Collective](#) is a team of disabled, neurodivergent, and chronically ill LGBTQIA+ community organizers hosting workshops and panel discussions on race, gender, disability justice and more.
- [Polo's Pantry](#) is a WoC-led organization dedicated to fighting for food justice through mutual aid, advocacy, and community building.
- The [Regenerative Collective](#) leads anti-colonial community projects including habitat restoration and native plant gardens.
- [Roots of South LA](#) centers the healing of BIPOC communities by

providing culturally traditional and holistic mental health services.

- The [Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Education & Cultural Learning Department](#) serves Indigenous youth through an array of community programs.
- [Los Angeles Community Action Network](#) (LA CAN), based in Skid Row, works to organize and empower unhoused residents to end the cycles of violence used against the community by the status quo.

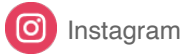


If you would like to learn more about our emergence and transformation moving into 2023 please [visit our website](#). Other ways to get involved include:

- Commit to attending a CNC program in 2023! We'll be offering more Public Programs, Transit to Trails trips, CNC Training Institute courses, and internships at the Akuutet Learning Nursery.
- Become a member of our Volunteer Naturalist Team to increase access to the outdoors for Los Angeles Unified School District students. Contact info@communitynatureconnection.org for more information.
- Subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and send it to your friends and family.
- Follow us on [social media](#), like + share our content.

- Support our work with a [donation](#).

Thank you for the many ways you show up for outdoor equity. We're excited for what the future holds. See you outside in 2023!



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