



Stronger and Bolder than Ever

Annual
Report
2018



A Letter from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a time for Advancement Project National Office! We are readying for a celebration of 20 years of bold and audacious work, all within the context of the current political environment and the daily attacks on communities of color. However, I know that there is also opportunity in this moment. This is such an important time in so many ways, both for our organization and for the movement for racial justice.

Throughout the year, it seemed that we saw new footage of unjustified police harassment, arrest, and even killings of Black and Brown youth, men and women every month. We know, based on polling we conducted in October 2018, that police brutality is one of the primary motivating factors for 18-24 year olds to vote and become active in their communities.

Moreover, we are winning at the polls in ways that do not get enough attention. From ballot initiatives like Amendment 4 in Florida that restored voting rights to 1.4 million Floridians with prior felony convictions, to the election of more women of color in Congress in November, we are seeing real progress at the ballot box.

Despite the rise of hate groups and attacks on communities of color, the racial justice movement is more audacious and stronger than ever.

This 2018 annual report lays out some of our biggest moments over the last year. We have shifted power, leaned in to rights restoration, and launched a campaign for #PoliceFreeSchools. Our success is based on our tried and true model to organize, communicate, advocate, and litigate – all in service to building power in communities of color.

Thank you! For standing with us, supporting our work, and lending your voices to change. Friends like you help make our work possible. I look forward to celebrating 20 years with you by our side in 2019!

Sincerely,
Judith Browne Dianis



Advancement Project at a Glance

Mission: Advancement Project National Office is a next generation, multi-racial civil rights organization. Rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice, we exist to fulfill America's promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy. We use innovative tools and strategies to strengthen social movements to achieve high-impact policy change.

Vision: We envision a future where people of color are free – where they can thrive, be safe and exercise power. Driven by the genius of ordinary people and their movements, racism will no longer exist and justice will be radically transformed.

Free and Safe Campaign: Our cross-programmatic effort that focuses on transformative, community-led change recognizing the humanity and dignity of people of color, seeks to end criminalization and its consequences.

Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track: This program works at the national level and on the ground to reduce the use of out-of-school suspensions and to end the criminalization of students while developing nurturing learning environments.

Quality Education for All: The campaign works with partners, allies and policymakers to lead the way in supporting the strengthening of public schools, pursuing equity, and opposing corporate takeover of public education to ensure that children can reach their potential.

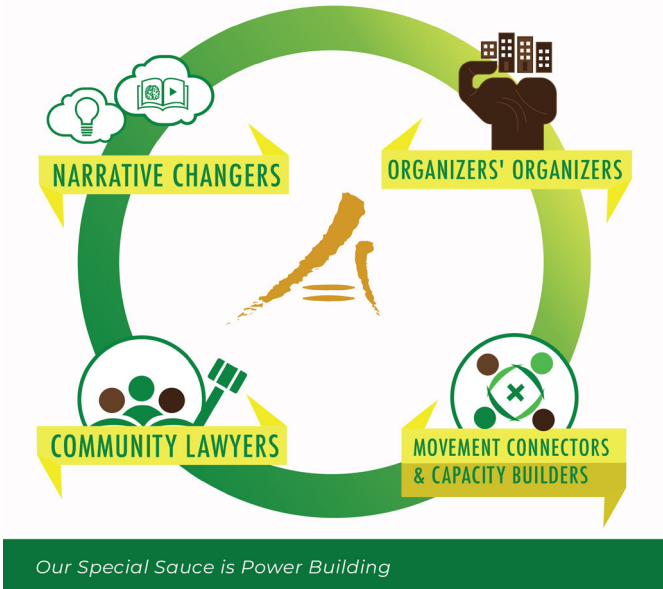
Justice Project: Advancement Project National Office supports communities in transforming policing, decreasing criminalization and reinvesting public funds into building thriving, healthy communities.

Immigrant Justice: The program works with communities to end the racialized criminalization of immigrants and seeks to change the public discourse that dehumanizes and demonizes them.

Voter Protection: The program identifies and eliminates systemic barriers to voting, including voter ID challenges and unlawful purges in an effort to ensure all voices have an opportunity to be heard.

Right to Vote: The program works with grassroots leaders to foster a pro-democracy movement (including ensuring people with felony convictions are not excluded) and to achieve an affirmative right to vote, which currently does not exist in the Constitution.

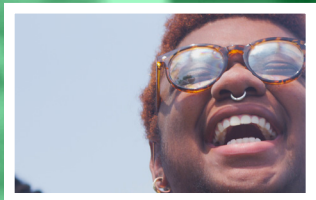
OCCUPYING A UNIQUE SPACE IN THE MOVEMENT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



At the state and local level, we support grassroots organizations in building power to dismantle structural racism. We increase accountability by providing carefully crafted strategies and tools for legal, organizing and communications work.

Nationally, we build momentum for change by amplifying and connecting local struggles and wins and strengthening the capacity of local organizations for the long haul.

We endeavor to change hearts and minds to create openings for real and lasting systemic changes benefitting children, families and communities of color. Ultimately, we win shifts that foster a just and more inclusive democracy.



This.
Is.
What.
We.
Do.

2018



In 2018, we executed bold, long-term strategies and rapid response actions to combat systemic racism and inequality. The year brought many challenges, but also some of our biggest victories as a movement.

“

I DIDN'T GET HERE BY MYSELF. I, ALONG WITH 1.4 MILLION FLORIDIANS ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND MOTIVATION OF ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF WHO WERE ON GROUND WITH US DURING THIS ELECTION SEASON. THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING THAT THIS CRAZY DREAM COULD COME TRUE.”

— DESMOND MEADE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION

Florida Voting Rights Restoration

We have long supported the work of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC), an organization, which we helped to co-found. We conducted public education on the ground throughout the state, provided strategy and communications support and trained formerly incarcerated residents to be spokespeople and mobilizing other justice-involved residents. As a result of this partner work, consistent organizing, and public education prior to the 2018 mid-term election, 64 percent of Floridians voted yes on Amendment 4, a voting rights initiative created to restore the right to vote to 1.4 million Returning Citizens in the state.

From September through Election Day in November, senior Advancement Project campaign staff was embedded at FRRRC and coached FRRRC organizers across the state in the final push to win Amendment 4. Advancement Project guided the organizing staff through the intense high-pressure Get Out The Vote period leading up to Election Day. Advancement Project instituted campaign best practices for FRRRC organizing staff, maintained high morale and high energy among the team, managed multiple voter engagement events spread out across the state, and organized a large Souls to the Polls event in Orlando. Further, we coached and developed key FRRRC organizing and management staff to make sure the organization was stronger at the end of the campaign regardless of the outcome of the election.

In support of this critical organizing by our Florida partners, we released prior to the election, “Democracy Disappeared,” a tool for advocates in targeting outreach. The report’s neighborhood-level analysis shows that Florida’s formerly incarcerated residents overwhelmingly return to Black neighborhoods that have disparate levels of income, employment, education and child poverty compared to the rest of the state. Our findings also demonstrate the impact that the vote can have on these communities. Following the passage of the ballot initiative, we began work to update the report with “Democracy Rising” to be released in 2019 alongside the implementation of Amendment 4.



Players Coalition Charitable Foundation

In 2017, we banned together with national allies to urge the NFL to change the name and mascot of the Washington football team due to the ugly history of their use of a dictionary defined racial slur. Like our mission says, we exist to fulfill America's promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy.

As such, because we are committed to public education and a strong local and national partner model, at the close of 2018, Advancement Project prepared for a partnership with Players Coalition Charitable Foundation to support our work around the Free and Safe Campaign. Over the course of 2019, we will support grassroots movements in targeted communities of color that work to challenge racial criminalization, attack all aspects of our unjust criminal legal system and advocate against police in our schools – with the help of NFL influencers in support of racial justice and criminal legal system reform.

Advancement Project National Office was grateful to be one of the recipients of the \$1 million in 10 months pledge from professional football player and social justice advocate, Colin Kaepernick. Kaepernick awarded \$100,000 to organizations tackling issues of the modern civil rights movement, which helped to advance our work in supporting communities of color across the country. Kaepernick's gift was matched by our board member Jesse Williams.

In a sociopolitical climate that empowers people to spew hatred and a time where rhetoric to incite fear is used to support the building of literal and figurative walls, it is imperative that those impacted and doing work rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice be heard. That is the work that the Advancement Project National Office does today and every day. As we approach our 20th anniversary, we are honored to move forward in our work with the Players Coalition Charitable Foundation by our side.



We Came to Learn

For many Black and Brown youth, the presence of police in their schools disrupts their learning environments. There is a culture clash that exists between law enforcement and the learning environment: police enforce criminal laws, while schools are supposed to nurture students. With our partner, Alliance for Educational Justice, we released “We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police-free Schools” to address the stark reality that police in schools is an issue of American racial disparity that requires deep structural change. The report centers the voices of young people from around the country who describe the everyday indignities they experience at the hands of school police. It also, for the first time, catalogues known assaults of young people by school police officers. Also published was an ActionKit created to build capacity for movements led by young people, parents and educators which features talking points and how-to instructions on creating petitions and media attention.

“AS A NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION THAT HAS WORKED ON EDUCATION JUSTICE ISSUES FOR OVER DECADE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PARENTS, STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS IN CAMPAIGNS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCIPLINE DISPARITIES AND DISMANTLE INSTITUTIONAL RACISM WITHIN THE NATION’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.”

— JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE



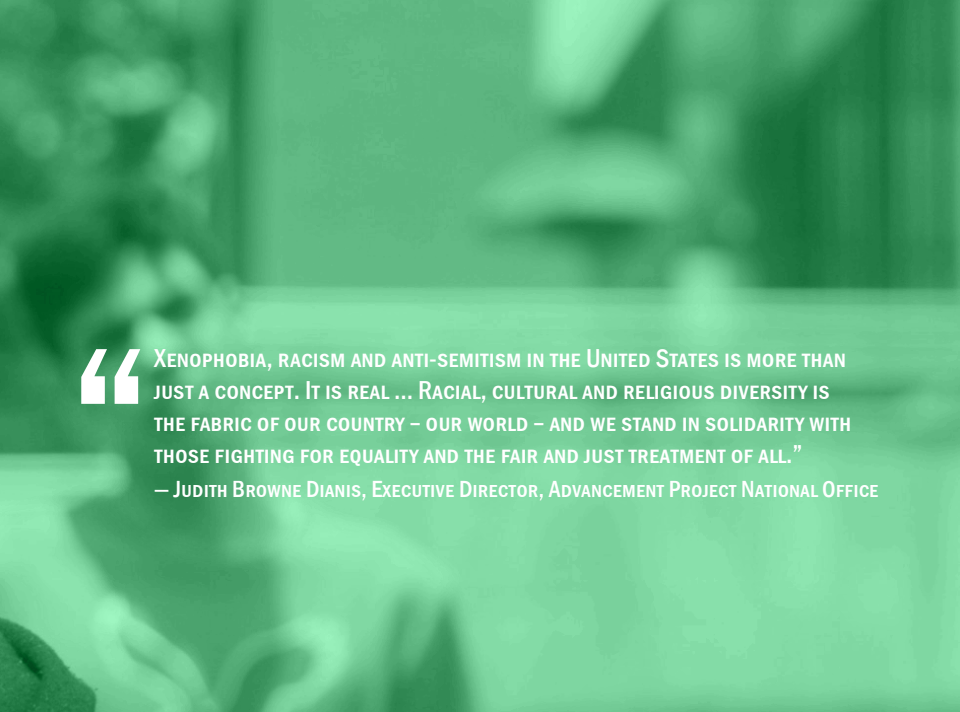
We celebrated with our partners

Voices of the Experienced (VOTE) scored an historic victory with the passage of HB 265, a rights-restoration bill that reduces the time that voting rights are suspended for people on probation and parole for felony convictions. In addition to legislative efforts, we served as counsel in *VOTE v. Louisiana*, challenging the existing law. Advancement Project also developed a communications strategy that included the creation of a video of VOTE's Executive Director, Norris Henderson and national media outreach including placement in SB Nation and Huffington Post. Advancement Project led VOTE through a strategy retreat and work plan development process. We assessed and developed a new membership recruitment, engagement, and development plan. We also led VOTE through an organizational management training to improve staff and organizational effectiveness. We worked with individual VOTE members (directly impacted people) in the community through an introduction to organizing and storytelling. We will continue to help VOTE in 2019 through the development of an implementation and organizing plan to register and engage voters, and build out member teams in key strategic legislative districts. We are coaching VOTE's individual staff members on their roles, strategy, tactics, and work plans to make the organization stronger and build grassroots power across Louisiana.



■ **Advancement Project held its well-known** training and campaign development space for grassroots organizers. We brought together more than 125 organizers of color, including youth, from across the country to sharpen their tools, share stories and strategies, and build relationships. In 2018, we expanded the scope of ActionCamp and drove deeper into the interconnectedness of policing, immigration enforcement, and school militarization that prohibits our communities from living free and safe.

■ **We released a #PoliceFreeSchools ActionKit** In response to the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, Advancement Project and our partners participated in the March for Our Lives to lift up the voices and concerns of Black and Brown students amid calls for increasing police in response to school shootings. We released an ActionKit and launched a petition against legislation in Florida to arm teachers and put more guns in schools. In April 2018, Advancement Project joined youth around the country in a school walkout and offered a youth-centered walkout toolkit and webinar to help young people harness the power of social media to amplify their voices and understand their rights – and challenges – as students desiring to protest.



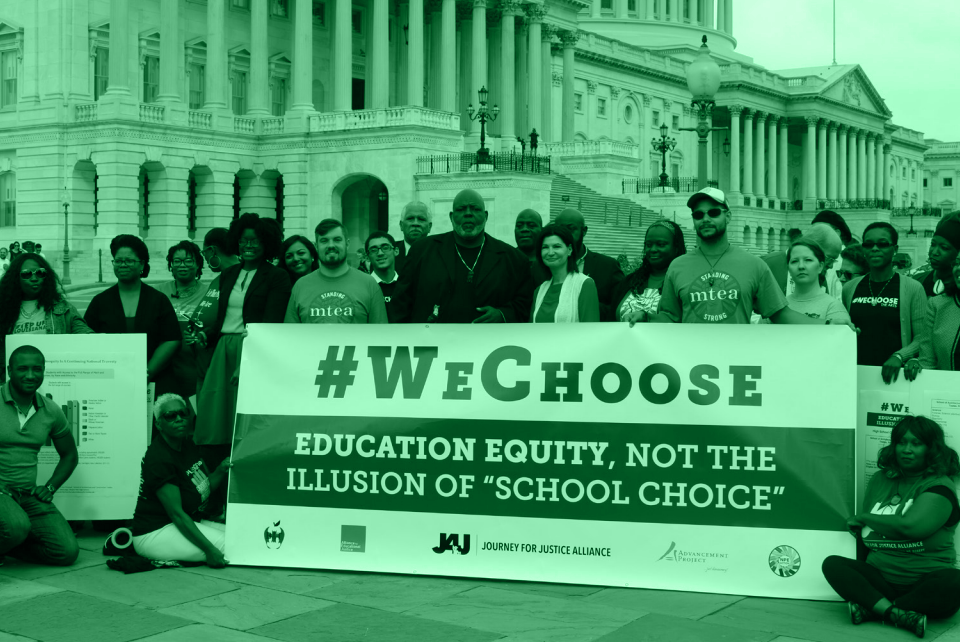
“XENOPHOBIA, RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES IS MORE THAN JUST A CONCEPT. IT IS REAL ... RACIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IS THE FABRIC OF OUR COUNTRY – OUR WORLD – AND WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY AND THE FAIR AND JUST TREATMENT OF ALL.”

— JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE

■ **While the voter ID law has not been completely overturned in Missouri**, a victory was still claimed in November with litigation we filed on behalf of the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP and League of Women Voters, challenging the discriminatory, restrictive photo ID law in *NAACP v. Missouri*.

■ **We filed suit against the state of Missouri** for failing to comply with a federal voting rights law that ensures Missourians have equal access to voter registration opportunities and that their registration records are accurately updated.

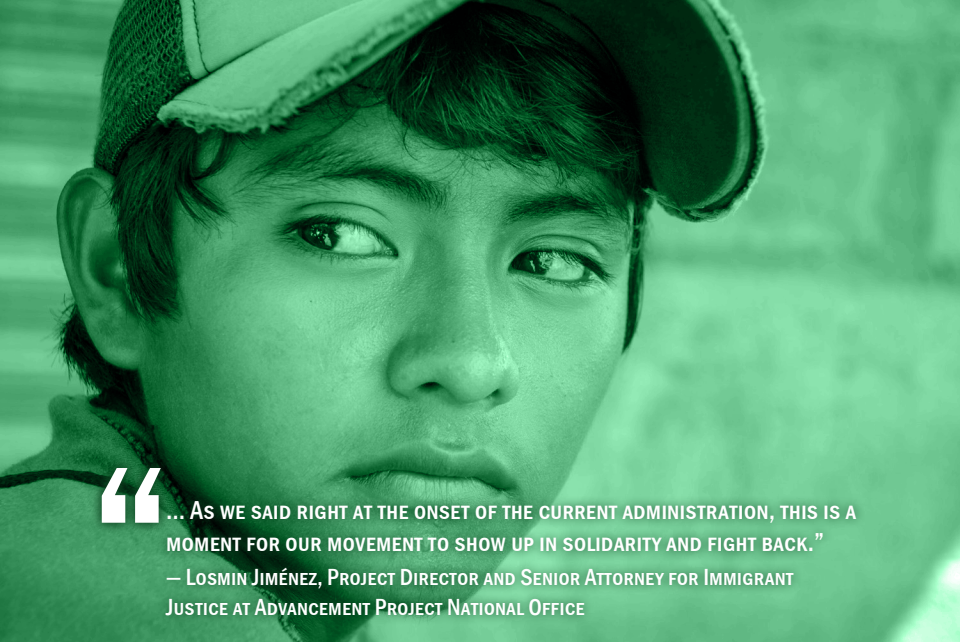
■ **We helped to coordinate the nation's largest voter protection efforts in Missouri** where we fielded calls, answered questions and helped lodge complaints and instances of voter suppression on Election Day. We even filed suit against St. Charles County where election officials were not upholding a new voter ID law which allowed voters to use a wide range of forms for ID in order to vote.



■ **We refused to let Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp quietly suppress** thousands of votes in Georgia. We launched a petition urging Kemp to recuse himself from monitoring the very gubernatorial election he was running in as a candidate. Our team appeared on several news programs calling attention to the issue including interviews on the “Rachel Maddow Show” and “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” and “Weekends with Alex Witt.”

■ **In Georgia we assisted filing of litigation in district court to extend the works of several polling locations** in Fulton County, Georgia, on the heels of reports of voting irregularities. In an effort to suppress democracy, voters were in lines for hours at polling centers that primarily served voters of color. Our litigation was successfully heard and hours were ultimately extended to allow for voters to have their voice heard.

■ **On Election Day, 21 team members from our national office were deployed on the ground to support voter engagement and protection** efforts in Georgia, Florida, Virginia, and Missouri. We monitored polls and addressed and amplified voter issues on social media and in traditional media. In Florida, we canvassed Black and Brown communities door-to-door with our partners in support of Amendment 4.



“... AS WE SAID RIGHT AT THE ONSET OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, THIS IS A MOMENT FOR OUR MOVEMENT TO SHOW UP IN SOLIDARITY AND FIGHT BACK.”

— LOSMIN JIMÉNEZ, PROJECT DIRECTOR AND SENIOR ATTORNEY FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE AT ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE

■ **We provided nonpartisan voter engagement support to grassroots groups including ActionSTL, ArchCity Defenders and the Bail Project** in an effort to draw attention to the important issues surrounding the county prosecutor election which involved incumbent, Bob McCullough. McCullough was the St. Louis prosecutor who failed to charge police Officer Darren Wilson for the murder of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. We helped the groups with strategic communications, including building a website for ActionSTL.

■ **We sent a team to Ferguson, Missouri, to work with Ferguson Collaborative members** who testified during a hearing in front of a U.S. District Court Judge on a pending consent decree. We prepped community members before their testimony and provided communications support including securing interviews with the Associated Press, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Final Call and NPR. Advancement Project also created a Ferguson Collaborative website and provided communications training to members.

■ **Our legal, organizing and communications staff were able to provide on the ground support** to families, help faith leaders organize and bring national media coverage, including *The New Yorker*, to the rural community of Morristown, Tennessee, following an Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid of a local meatpacking plant, which targeted and arrested dozens of immigrant workers.



■ **We visited the Eloy Detention Center in Eloy, Arizona**, to hear concerns of immigrants being imprisoned under extremely poor conditions. We did this work in partnership with Puente Human Rights Movement and document our findings for a report to be published in 2019.

■ **We worked with our grassroots partner Juntos, in Philadelphia**, to successfully advocate for the city to stop sharing its local arrest database with ICE. After meetings with the mayor's office and media attention we garnered on behalf of Juntos, Mayor Jim Kenney ended the contract.

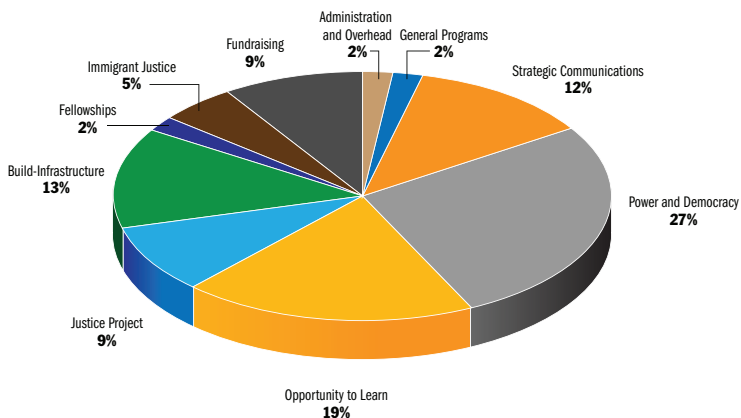
■ **Judith Browne Dianis was featured on** the A&E series, "America Divided," as first responders to racial justice crises and recent hate crimes and incidents that have garnered national attention.

■ **We hosted private screenings of "The Hate U Give"** in five cities and audience talkback discussions of the film "The Hate U Give," helping our partners use this opportunity to build their base of young activists and discuss policing issues.

■ **We began filming a project on policing**, directed by board member, actor and activist Jesse Williams. The project features athletes, actors and other influencers discussing their interactions with the police and having "the talk" with their families.

■ **We pushed back against Trump's racist attacks and co-moderated** a nation-wide call with Black leaders from civil rights and immigrant organizations to respond to Trump's racist and vile comments. More than 1,000 people called in to join the conversation on how they could respond to the critical justice issues Black and Browne people are facing under the current administration.

Financial Summary



2018 Expenses (Preliminary)	Program
General Programs	\$104,264.73
Strategic Communications	\$829,327.14
Power and Democracy	\$1,821,279.40
Opportunity to Learn	\$1,265,483.85
Justice Project	\$615,394.48
Build-Infrastructure	\$918,214.65
Fellowships	\$127,541.16
Immigrant Justice	\$346,999.52
Fundraising	\$614,013.23
Administration and Overhead	\$142,682.04
TOTAL	\$6,785,200.20

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Without Your Support, Our Victories Would be Impossible to Achieve

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