

As VegFund's Executive Director, I am beyond pleased to tell you about the very fine people we've recently hired at VegFund, along with the fabulous cast of characters that make up our full team.

Hired this past January 2018, **Kari Hallenburg** leads VegFund's Marketing and Communication Team from vegan-friendly Portland, Oregon, and is a veritable vegan wonder woman of communications. Kari's patience for detail and ability to switch on her creative strategic insights at a moment's notice make her an A-list player for any team. Fortunately, Vegfund was able to snag her skills full time as we expand our marketing and communications efforts.

Fabiola Martinez joined VegFund in April of this year and broadens our marketing outreach to Latin America while engaging in her own twist of vegan activism for animals in Mexico. Using her top-notch skills in digital marketing, honed in the corporate world, Fabiola will use her bottomless enthusiasm and savvy to find even the most remote vegan activist out there in the big world and connect them to VegFund's global activist network, grant support, and resources.

Leah Gage, also hired in April 2018, is guaranteed to rock VegFund's grant programming as our new program officer. Leah brings a worldly perspective to grant programming from her prior work in the global microfinance sector. When not working at her day job with VegFund, Leah drums in two local Washington, DC, bands.

Sally Thompson keeps us moving forward from the UK, bringing her keen insights and years of dedication to vegan causes. Using her secret sauce of a cheery attitude and a can-do spirit, Sally assists with all things communication. If it's communicated from VegFund, you can guarantee that Sally has played her hand. Sally has worked with VegFund for almost three years now.

Amanda Riley steadily keeps the fires burning on grant processing, as she has for some five years now. Amanda never fails to recall some obscure fact, lost password, or policy created from an earlier era of VegFund, making her indispensable to the team. Amanda, too, plays guitar, has recorded her originally written music, and regales us with stories of music cruises and her intrepid acts of playing music for strangers on boats.

Keeping all the stars and finances aligned for the past three years at VegFund is **Dave Lesser**. When Dave is not spinning eclectic stories about life and occasionally stealing the vegan lunch of his work colleagues, he is capably making grant payments and keeping finance and admin working smoothly within VegFund. Check out Dave's band BRNDA, where you can also find Leah drumming away.

~ **Leslie Barcus**

Executive Director, VegFund