



Bayanihan¹ Change for Justice

There have been far too many of our Black brothers and sisters that have been wrongly incarcerated or murdered at the hands of those with racist/anti-black ideals. UT FSA has been building its platform for over 30 years and has many ties within the 40 acres along with connections to other FSAs in Texas. We want to use the platform that we have been given to help the movement in any way that we can. I know to some that it might not seem like much in the grand scheme of things, but change occurs through the many “little” contributions over time. We hope that our contribution is able to help the organization we donate to in any way they see fit, along with reinforcing us being active participants in the movement. Since we are an organization that represents and is for minorities, it is our duty to uplift the voices that have been repressed and oppressed, along with donating money to them if financially possible.

Through our week long project “Bayanihan Change for Justice” we hope to kickstart our official stance on this topic, along with encouraging other organizations in our college community to do what they can. For UT FSA personally, we are planning to release this to our official social media accounts along with a Google Form that allows members/participants to send us evidence of their donation (most likely through attaching a screenshot). Our personal goal is to see that our members have donated up to \$1000, at which point we will match it and donate to the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, also known under the acronym LDF.

To the other organizations that we encourage to partake in this project, we know that mixing politics with your organization can get a little muddled and messy, but we also acknowledge the fact that staying silent might not be an option anymore. Each individual organization can set their maximum matching limit to whatever they see is most comfortable for them financially, we do not want to force everyone to do up to \$1000 if it is not within the financial abilities of the organization. To those that do not have the funds or stability to match donation, we hope to get your support in pubbing our project to others, reaching out to other organizations, or in whatever way you see fit. To

¹ Bayanihan is a Filipino word that refers to “the spirit of communal unity, work and cooperation to achieve a particular goal”, according to the website *The Mixed Culture*. Imelda. “The Bayanihan Spirit.” *The Mixed Culture*, 25 Sept. 2013, themixedculture.com/2013/09/25/filipinos-bayanihan.



those that cannot support us publicly for the sake of political neutrality, we completely understand where you are coming from and the risks it might have to members (current and future), along with the complexities of taking a public stance on social justice matters. It is our personal decision to no longer contribute to the silence that perpetuates this kind of treatment towards Black Americans.

We hope that we can encourage a change in college organizations in the present and future. In addition to this, we want to show how to be true leaders on our campus and genuinely use our platform for education and awareness.