The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation has again awarded the Fund for Investigative Journalism $50,000 and also pledged $25,000 in matching funds if FIJ can raise a similar amount from new donors or increased donations from existing funders.

The foundation has issued similar fundraising challenges in the past, and FIJ has been fortunate to receive the matching funds because of the generosity of our supporters.

The Craigslist Charitable Fund has also renewed its commitment to FIJ by awarding another $75,000 grant.

Continued financial support from our friends, old and new, allows FIJ to maintain its support of freelance and independent investigative journalists.

When Colorado-based Newmont Mining arrived in the hills of Brong-Ahafo in Ghana in 2004, locals were optimistic that Africa’s second-largest gold producer would deliver lucrative jobs. But Sophia Jones, reporting for Sierra magazine, found that thousands of residents have been displaced by Newmont and its open-pit, cyanide-processing mine. Jones, an editor and reporter with the Fuller Project for International Reporting, and Accra-based photojournalist Ruth McDowall say they discovered widespread abuses against the local population, including alleged sexual assaults. Farmers have been pushed out and their land destroyed. Jones writes that women bear the brunt of the physical, social and economic impacts of mining, and some are battling Newmont for a return of their land and livelihood.

Earth Island Journal and Truthout spent more than a year on a collaborative reporting project investigating the links between mass incarceration, environmental degradation, and social justice. Using federal and state data gathered through FOIA requests, and on-the-ground reporting from prisons and prison-adjacent communities in California, Texas, and Pennsylvania, the “America’s Toxic Prisons” series revealed that from coast to coast, prisons, jails, and detention centers are exposing prisoners to environmental health hazards — through their siting on contaminated lands and hazardous locations, and their use of polluted drinking water. Often, not unlike factory farms, prisons themselves also become significant sources of pollution.