If you follow the news, it’s hard to avoid the feeling that the world is in a downward, seemingly irreversible, spiral. ISIS, Zika, racial injustice, loss of economic mobility, rampant opioid addiction, bleaching of coral reefs, a new nuclear arms race, broken health and education systems and, to top it off, the most negative and divisive U.S. presidential race in memory.

Excuse us while we slip into mild depression.

But is this really the world? Is the news holding up a mirror to reality — or is it more like a hall of mirrors in a fun house?

Where are the people in this story who are responding to these problems? What about the communities in Denmark and the United Kingdom, in Michigan and Maryland, that are confronting the forces that attract Islamic youths to extremism? What about the brilliant and courageous health workers who contained Ebola (after the news media had written off Africa and scared Americans senseless)? What about the police departments that are making thoughtful efforts to fight systemic racism? Or the states that are reducing their prison populations? What about community colleges and hospitals and city governments that are trying to improve the ways they serve people, sometimes making important gains — even saving thousands of lives?

We started the Solutions Journalism Network three years ago with the belief that reporting solely on what’s wrong, what’s broken, and what’s corrupt does an injustice to society. It undermines public discourse, it stunts citizenship, and it doesn’t even succeed very well at its core functions: providing society with the information it needs to self-govern and self-correct. (You can’t really hold people accountable for bad performance if you have no clue what better performance looks like.)

We proposed an alternative: critical and compelling reporting on responses to problems. We set out to convince reporters, producers, editors, and media owners that telling the whole story — reporting on both society’s problems and how people are responding to them — is better for the world.

In 2015, that idea began to win broad traction. The demand for SJN’s workshops, educational curricula, and online tools far exceeded our expectations. We have rapidly expanded our portfolio of relationships, launching reporting projects at major newspapers, public radio stations, and online sites, introducing our first city-based professional chapters and ramping up our online community.

Even more exciting, the solutions approach is moving into the parlance of mainstream journalism. Beyond our own direct efforts, we are discovering editors talking about solutions reporting, journalism conferences putting it on their agendas, schools creating new courses, and solutions stories emerging far and wide.

That’s what we’re after. We envision the day, in the near future, when journalists and newsrooms everywhere acknowledge a new notion of balance: news that informs us about major threats and challenges alongside news that informs us about ideas and models to respond to them. This idea of balance will lead to a steady stream of high-quality reporting that triggers awareness and concern while building efficacy and practical intelligence for society. That’s a feedback system that works.

To this end, we’re collecting, tagging, and mapping stories as they emerge. In 2016, we’ll introduce the Solutions Story Tracker, a searchable archive with over a thousand stories accessible to journalists, university professors, students, foundation program managers — and anyone else interested in solving society’s problems. Beyond helping ideas get to the people and places where they’re needed, the Tracker will also provide a glimpse of the world through a lens of possibility — helping people to see a more comprehensive, faithful, and empowering view of reality.

That’s what SJN is working toward. We’re grateful for your partnership in this exciting journey.

Courtney Martin               David Bornstein               Tina Rosenberg

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The Solutions Journalism Network is out to change journalism, catalyzing rigorous and compelling reporting on responses to the world’s challenges — stories that foster more productive public discourse and help to speed social change. In 2015, solutions journalism graduated from intriguing conceit to accelerating adoption: Thousands of journalists were exposed to our tools, and dozens of major newsrooms joined in collaborations to produce high-impact projects. Here’s how we’ve moved the needle:

**Our Impact in 2015**

**4,011 PEOPLE**
downloaded one of our toolkits and/or participated in a workshop or webinar in 2015. As of March 2016, a total of 5,318 people had been exposed to our educational resources.

**26 WORKSHOPS**
led in 2015, reaching over 800 participants

**122 COUNTRIES**
(and all 50 states) were represented in the thousands of individuals who downloaded the Solutions Journalism Toolkit.

**EDUCATION**
A critical mass of reporters, editors, and producers are exposed to the principles and tools of solutions journalism, creating a foundation for practice change.

**MASS SPREAD**
Growing numbers of journalists affiliate with solutions reporting, forming a community for learning and collaboration.

**PRACTICE CHANGE**
Leading newsrooms adopt the solutions approach, moving over time to integrate and sustain it across coverage areas.

**PATTERN CHANGE**
Solutions-oriented stories, appearing with greater frequency in growing numbers of outlets, engage readers and viewers in powerful, less polarizing, ways.

**33 NEWSROOMS**
trained by SJN are actively producing solutions journalism.

**16 PROJECTS**
focused on health issues

**15 PROJECTS**
on violence protection

**5 PROJECTS**
on public education responses

**30 FEATURES**
produced by The Seattle Times for “Education Lab” have run since October 2013, in addition to hundreds of shorter stories and blog posts, and 12 live events.

**1,000 SOLUTIONS STORIES**
We created the world’s first database of solutions journalism, the Solutions Story Tracker, which contains over 1000 (and growing!) stories.

**38 ORGANIZATIONS**
(including 29 universities) participated in our initial discovery phase for SolutionsU (see page 13)

**500+ JOURNALISTS**
contributed stories to the Solutions Story Tracker.
**S**JN’s strategy is focused on driving sustained practice change among journalists and news organizations — over time, producing a critical mass of high-quality solutions reporting that provides value to society. Here’s how it works:

**INPUTS:**
- Research, evidence, and models connected to high-impact approaches trigger solutions coverage.

**Outputs:**
- Products that aggregate and filter solutions stories for actors in targeted fields.
  - Our first product: SolutionsU, for university professors and students.

**Our Strategy**

**S**JN’s curricula and tools detail what solutions journalism is, why it matters, and how to build it into journalistic practice. We want to make this content easily accessible to as many journalists and journalism students as possible, catalyzing the affiliation that can lead to higher levels of engagement.

In January, SJN launched our signature Solutions Journalism Toolkit, a 48-page guide to the fundamentals of reporting, writing, and producing solutions stories across media platforms.

In August, we added the Editor’s Toolkit, a resource that reflects our experience helping news leaders implement solutions reporting in dozens of newsrooms over two-plus years. And we created the Education Reporter’s Toolkit — the first in a series of guides to applying the solutions lens to core newsroom beats.

Because today’s journalism school students are tomorrow’s reporters and editors, we produced the first solutions journalism curricula for j-schools — collaborating with four institutions to launch full-scale courses and a series of modules that can be dropped into a range of existing classes.

**What we’ve learned:**
- Demand for solutions journalism curriculum is stronger than we had anticipated. More than 2,700 people downloaded the Solutions Journalism Toolkit in 2015. Even more surprising, those downloads have come from 122 countries, despite our decision not to market the product outside the U.S.
- We collaborated with The Hechinger Report, a highly respected education news site that has embraced the solutions approach, for our Education Reporter’s Toolkit. We learned that collaborating with issue-focused organizations can lend field expertise and credibility to help us win attention.
- In higher education, we gained efficiencies by helping educators develop their own solutions journalism curriculum. We have identified educators who are eager to work with us to co-develop solutions journalism curriculum and tailor it to their particular interests.

**Where we’re headed in 2016:**
- We will produce a series of resources that track our solutions engine activities, expanding the number of touch points with journalists in different beats and newsroom functions. And we plan to translate some toolkit products into Spanish and other languages.
- We are expanding the number of collaborations to develop journalism-school courses and modules, targeting 10 institutions. Both Temple University and the University of Oregon have launched semester-long courses.
In 2015, our newsroom portfolio grew dramatically to include many of the leading journalistic organizations in the United States. We continue to target "beacon" news organizations, outlets such as PBS NewsHour, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and WAMU public radio in Washington, D.C., whose credibility and high journalistic standards attract the notice of their peers – and whose solutions stories regularly prompt strong audience and community engagement.

By year-end, over half of the newsrooms we had engaged were committed to solutions-reporting projects. Our initiative focused on responses in public health had yielded 37 major feature stories, with two more projects still in the works. And our collaboration to report on violence prevention and cessation had yielded four stories, with another 23 to come. In addition, SJN has been intimately involved in The Huffington Post’s roll-out of “What’s Working,” a global initiative to integrate solutions reporting across the site, and with a major shift at The Christian Science Monitor to include more solutions reporting.

SJN collaborated with the Center on Media, Crime and Justice, part of City University of New York’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice, to host a symposium on What Works in Violence Prevention. We hosted 27 journalists, some from newsrooms already participating in the violence collaboration; all are now pursuing solutions-oriented reporting projects, some with SJN financial support.

Now in its third year, “Education Lab,” our flagship collaboration with The Seattle Times, has emerged as a leading destination for daily solutions-oriented news and conversation about public education in Washington State. Teachers, administrators, parents, students, policymakers, and journalists from Seattle and beyond have emailed, commented, and chatted, forming the foundation of a changed, more productive, discourse on public education. Importantly, we see solutions coverage spreading beyond “Education Lab” to other newsroom beats. Not least, The Times has successfully attracted advertising sponsors for Education Lab content and events, indicating the potential for solutions reporting to drive new revenue.

At their best, these initiatives produce high-quality solutions stories that provide models for other journalists and newsrooms. They also serve to build the muscle for sustained practice of the solutions approach in our partner newsrooms. Our objective is to help more and more newsrooms integrate solutions reporting permanently into their work – like The Seattle Times, as well as The Desert News, WAMU, and others – while simultaneously exposing a steady flow of new partners to the approach.

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What we’ve learned:

- Sustained interaction with newsrooms yields better results. In most cases, we need to be active with a newsroom for four to six months to ensure that solutions reporting will be seen as more than a single ephemeral project – and that journalists will, in fact, integrate the practice into their work.

- Less is more. We can generate greater impact by focusing investment on fewer, larger newsroom relationships that yield large numbers of visible, high-impact stories, rather than spreading bets (and time, and focus) across dozens of relationships.

- Audience and community engagement activities associated with reporting projects can highlight the distinctive value of solutions journalism to improve public discourse, and can build enthusiasm and rapport among journalists, publishers, and community members.

Where we’re headed in 2016:

- We will launch an engine focused on community vitality, with an emphasis on engagement activities, and a second focused on education – leveraging our work with The Seattle Times and with The Boston Globe, whose year-long “Learning Curve” series launched in September.

- A two-day workshop, co-hosted by The Hechinger Report and The Seattle Times, brought 20 education reporters to Seattle in January. Several participants have already started solutions-oriented projects.
Corpus Christi Caller-Times (Corpus Christi, TX)

Half of Corpus Christi’s criminal homicides are linked to domestic abuse. An ongoing series, “Behind Broken Doors,” examines the efforts of law enforcement, courts, and advocates in Texas and beyond, to combat the trend.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Milwaukee, WI)

After the board Sentinel’s Ashley Luthen wrote this solutions-oriented story about Milwaukee’s successful systemic approach to combat youth violence, Milwaukee’s mayor proposed the creation of two new positions to coordinate policy on the issue.

The Seattle Times (Seattle, WA)

As part of Education Lab, “The Times” ongoing initiative to surface and investigate responses to public education issues, reporter Claudia Rowe led a multi-part series on alternatives to traditional school discipline approaches. In September, Seattle’s School Board announced it was halting suspensions for elementary school students.

Deseret News (Deseret, UT)

Following on his groundbreaking 2014 series on public safety, investigative reporter Greg Barnes produced “Poverty’s Price,” a seven-day-long examination of drugs, school suspensions, public housing, and other factors that drive Fayetteville’s entrenched poverty — and potential responses. “I see a shift in attitudes toward poverty and the community’s responsibility to address it,” Barnes wrote. “People are beginning to realize that we can no longer drive around our poor neighborhoods, to avoid them at all costs.”

JOURNAL SENTINEL

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The Boston Globe (Boston, MA)

The Globe’s “Learning Curve” series, launched in September, is a year-long effort to examine promising practices that address chronic challenges in Massachusetts schools. Reporter Michael Levenson traveled to Pharr, Texas, to tell the story of a program that offers free college courses to low-income high school students.

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KPCC (Pasadena, CA)

Reporter Stephanie O’Neill looked at how police intervene with people in the midst of mental health crises, focusing on the successful efforts of the LAPD’s Mental Evaluation Unit. Soon after, the L.A. County Sheriff’s Office announced the creation of a bureau modeled after the LAPD’s.

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A 14-part series on human trafficking, almost all of it solutions-oriented, documented a collaboration between police and Catholic churches in East Lancashire, England; a successful initiative to eliminate abuse of laborers in the tomato fields of Immokalee, Florida; and activists’ efforts to stop child trafficking in Ghana’s chocolate industry.

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Solutions journalism gains traction, it is demonstrating potential to elevate public discourse, reduce polarization, and energize citizen agency. We understand anecdotally that solutions journalism generates different sorts of conversations that can strengthen citizenship.

Over the past two years, the spread of solutions journalism has yielded a critical mass of solutions stories. These stories – in print, audio, video, and multimedia—produce immediate value for the people who come across them. But they also form a distinctive asset: a real-time view or “heat map” showing how society is adapting to major social challenges.

These stories can help journalists, policymakers, academics, and citizen-sector actors bridge the gaps between what is broadly understood about problems and what is usually not understood about emerging responses to those problems. We believe that assembling the best of these stories in real time, and directing them to key actors and decision-makers, can accelerate the diffusion of innovation.

To test this hypothesis, in 2015 we built the first version of our Solutions Story Tracker, which contains over 1,000 tagged and catalogued stories, mapped by the location of the reported effort. This resource will launch with our new website in May 2016.

Now, we’re building products to optimize the Solutions Story Tracker for application in high-leverage markets. In universities, educators recognize that solutions journalism promises opportunities to capture and study the front lines of social engagement, to recognize patterns and principles that account for success or failure, and to inspire students to take on meaningful and bold challenges. We are working with academic partners to develop an interface, SolutionsU, through which educators will be able to integrate these examples of problem-solving into their courses, exposing students to current (often evidence-based) examples of responses to social problems.

We have moved from design and planning to a series of experiments that will roll-out of these communities in the next year. A new website, set to launch in May 2016, will serve as the hub of network activity: it will house our education content, the Solutions Story Tracker (image above), a searchable archive of more than 1,000 solutions stories — and many more in time, and features such as the ‘SJ60,’ an annual celebration of leading solutions journalists who practice solutions journalism; finally, it will encourage network members to create profiles cataloguing journalists who practice solutions journalism; and allowing them to connect with journalists around the world interested in reporting from the solutions frame.

Even before the site relaunch, our online following has grown rapidly. Our website, solutionsjournalism.org, averaged 6,221 sessions per month, up 53% from 2014, and 5,079 unique visitors per month, up 66%. Our Facebook fans increased 94%, and Twitter followers and newsletter subscribers each grew 98%.

We also have seeded the first two local chapters of our offline community, in San Francisco and Philadelphia (in addition to the existing community in New York City). In each city, we identify a coordinator—a champion of solutions journalism who generates and sustains enthusiasm among local peers. They hold monthly gatherings, such as Q&As with local journalists and practitioners, partnering with local organizations to discuss various issues from a solutions angle, or celebratory happy hours — all with the intent of building a community and an identity around the solutions approach.

Regional Coordinators:

- Catherine Cheney, Bay Area, is the West Coast correspondent for Devex, the media platform for the global development community. Previously, she helped to launch NationsWells.
- Jean Friedman-Rudovsky, Philadelphia, is an award-winning freelance journalist who was based in La Paz, Bolivia from 2006 to 2013, where she was a reporter for Time Magazine.

Where we’re headed in 2016:

- We will launch our new website, as well as The Hub (our online network platform), and The Solutions Story Tracker.
- We plan to add two more cities by the end of 2016. We currently are targeting Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Austin, TX, as potential locations with high concentrations of likely participants, existing and/or imminent newsroom collaborations; and strong candidates for potential coordinators.

Pattern Change

Where we’re headed in 2016:

- The SolutionsU pilot will launch by September, accompanied by teaching guides, a full-semester course template, and other resources.
- By year-end, we will launch a discovery stage for an application targeting the philanthropic sector. We expect to pilot the philanthropic sector application beginning in May 2017.
In 2015, SJN continued to develop and maintain a sound organizational infrastructure in support of its programs. The administrative and financial team strives to adhere to best practices in non-profit organization management and aims for transparency in communicating our administrative practices and financial results.

As a tax-exempt organization since June 30, 2014, SJN operated independently of its prior fiscal sponsors in 2015 with the exception of one grant that ended in the third quarter of 2015.

**Governance:** SJN has welcomed two new independent members to its board of directors: Trabian Shorters, CEO of BMe Community, and Susan Davis (to be elected June 2016), founding president of BRAC USA, a position she held until 2015.

**Compliance and Tax Reporting:** SJN will file all required federal and state tax forms for 2015. In preparing these documents, SJN retained the services of Kiwi Partners, LLC, as outsourced accountant and Raich, Ende & Malter as independent auditor. In early 2016 SJN hired Herbert McMullen, a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Government Financial Manager, as its Director of Finance.

SJN restated its 2014 audited financials to align with a revised revenue recognition policy that more properly reflects true financial performance. For more details, please see our 2015 audited financials, available at solutionsjournalism.org. As a result, revenues appear to drop from 2014 to 2015. However, SJN’s secure financial position is better reflected in our balance sheet, which shows a 32.8% increase in total assets, to $2.76 million.

**Organizational Capacity Updates**

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**Financial Updates**

 SJN’s operating expenses grew by 62%, to $2.21 million in 2015 from $1.43 million a year earlier. Program expenses, mostly associated with our newsroom practice change collaborations, accounted for 65% of total operating expenses.

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**Income**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>AUDITED FY 2015</th>
<th>AUDITED FY 2014</th>
<th>VARIANCE FY 2015 vs. FY 2014</th>
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<td>Foundation and Corporate Grants</td>
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<td>(9,255) ^2</td>
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<td>In-Kind Revenue</td>
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**Expense**

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<th>Expense</th>
<th>AUDITED FY 2015</th>
<th>AUDITED FY 2014</th>
<th>VARIANCE FY 2015 vs. FY 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Program Staff Compensation</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Staff Compensation</td>
<td>429,973</td>
<td>323,959</td>
<td>106,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum, Training and Research</td>
<td>195,620</td>
<td>77,541</td>
<td>118,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsroom Support</td>
<td>498,791</td>
<td>375,250</td>
<td>123,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist Projects</td>
<td>38,721</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>38,721 ^3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy and Office</td>
<td>71,614</td>
<td>58,438</td>
<td>13,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website design and maintenance</td>
<td>48,156</td>
<td>2,738</td>
<td>45,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>19,124</td>
<td>8,511</td>
<td>10,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and Event Expenses</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>(3,089) ^4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>80,197</td>
<td>91,047</td>
<td>(10,850) ^5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>115,866</td>
<td>61,337</td>
<td>54,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>9,296</td>
<td>12,278</td>
<td>(2,982) ^6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Travel and Meetings</td>
<td>62,528</td>
<td>36,220</td>
<td>26,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Expense</td>
<td>54,018</td>
<td>18,802</td>
<td>35,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,211,752</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,437,310</strong></td>
<td><strong>774,442</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income**

| Net Income                          | 562,354         | 1,915,693       | (1,353,339)                   |

^1 Driven by change in revenue recognition policy. For further details please refer to our 2015 audit report.

^2 Curriculum Research, Data services and Training activities did not start until second half of FY 2015.

^3 Curriculum Research, Data services and Training activities did not start until second half of FY 2015.

^4 Curriculum Research, Data services and Training activities did not start until second half of FY 2015.

^5 Curriculum Research, Data services and Training activities did not start until second half of FY 2015.

^6 Curriculum Research, Data services and Training activities did not start until second half of FY 2015.

Courtney Martin is an author and entrepreneur. Her books include the forthcoming The New Better Off: Reinventing the American Dream, Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists, and Perfect Girls, Starring Daughters: How the Quest for Perfection is Harming Young Women. She is a strategist for the TED Prize and co-founder of FRESH Speaker’s Bureau.

Tina Rosenberg is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author. She co-authors the “Fixes” column in The New York Times “Opinionator” section. She is a former editorial writer for The New York Times and a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine. She is the author, most recently, of Join the Club: How Peer Pressure Can Transform the World.

Julia Burns, Chief Financial Officer, has been a senior finance and strategy executive with Dow Jones, Wolters Kluwer, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Liza Gross, Director of Newsroom Practice Change, has worked for three decades as a journalist, media executive, and non-profit leader. She was executive director of the International Women’s Media Foundation, a Managing Editor at The Miami Herald and Publisher of Exito, the Spanish-language weekly of The Chicago Tribune.

Keith Hammonds, President, is a longtime reporter and editor, formerly executive editor of Fast Company magazine and founder of Ashoka’s News & Knowledge initiative.

Samantha McCann, Network Curator, has spent her career in academic and policy research on environmental and criminal justice issues. Her work has appeared in the Journal of International Affairs, The Guardian, Scholastic, Grist, & more.

Herbert McMullen, Director of Finance, is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Government Financial Manager, member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs.

Taylor Nelson, Development and Administrative Associate, comes to the Solutions Journalism Network from the Social Impact House, where she managed operations and spearheaded special projects for University of Pennsylvania’s 2013 Social Impact Fellowship.

Rikha Rani, Intelligence Director, has worked extensively as a consultant in the global health space with a focus on increasing access to medicines. Clients have included Pfizer, the United Nations Population Fund and the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

Carolyn Robinson, Deputy Director of Programs, is a video journalist, media development program director and educator who began her career with CNN’s medical news unit. She has received multiple Knight International Journalism Fellowships, and has trained journalists in almost two dozen countries.

Kerrin Stokes, Administrative Director, has worked for five years as an office administrator in non-profit and education settings. She has a background in the performing arts in dance, performing on various stages such as Broadway, Madison Square Garden and feature films.

Elizabeth Tompkins, Web and Social Media Director, comes to SJN with a dual background in media and social science research. Previously she has worked for the Institute for Security and Development Policy and Ashoka.

Sarika Bansal, a former SJN staffer, was the founding editor of Bright, a medium publication about innovation, in education. Her writing, largely about global health and poverty, has appeared in The New York Times, Al Jazeera America, The Guardian, VICE, and other publications.

David Boardman is Dean of the School of Media and Communication at Temple University in Philadelphia. Previously, he was Executive Editor and Senior Vice President of The Seattle Times. He is chairman of the National Advisory Board of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, and a Poynter Ethics Fellow.

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The Solutions Journalism Network was founded in 2013 by David Bornstein, Courtney Martin, and Tina Rosenberg, veteran journalists who had grown increasingly concerned that mainstream journalism was failing to keep pace with major global changes and society’s evolving information needs.

Early in their careers, their instincts had led them to focus on important social problems. Then, as now, success in journalism came from magnifying wrongdoing. But over time, they became convinced that they needed to tell stories about credible responses to problems. By focusing primarily on the watchdog role, they felt, they were overlooking important developments. And they saw meaningful reporting opportunities to explore how people were trying to advance solutions, examining the results they were producing and what could be learned from their work. While their stories covered timeworn topics—poverty, health, human rights—the solutions angles provided contrast and brought fresh energy. In doing so, they made people question the more limited narratives that dominated the mainstream news.

The experience of writing these stories, and seeing how powerful their impact could be, seeded the idea for the Solutions Journalism Network. After meeting each other through professional networks, David, Courtney and Tina discovered a shared belief in the necessity of making rigorous reporting about solutions a core part of daily journalism. They recognized that it wouldn’t be easy. Expanding the traditional definition of news would require both a culture and a practice shift, starting in the newsroom itself.

It was a necessary evolution. Many people felt that journalism had become too negative and short-sighted. Journalists had defined their role too narrowly and they were inadvertently providing a view of reality that often subverted their own goals: rather than informing or engaging citizens around the most important issues of the day, all too often reporting—even the best reporting—contributed to feelings of helplessness, cynicism, and apathy.

The Solutions Journalism Network was founded to set a cultural shift in motion, by bringing together a community of like-minded journalists who embrace the notion that their responsibility goes far beyond cataloging failures—to circulating the information that society needs to self-correct every day. That means telling the whole story.

“This isn’t service journalism in the traditional sense; it is rigorous and investigative journalism at its core.”

Paul Edwards
Deseret News Editor-in-Chief

“The response that we’ve gotten from readers has been amazing...we’ve got people talking in a way that they weren’t talking before. Dialogues are happening that weren’t happening before.”

Kathy Best
Seattle Times Executive Editor