



Stateline Organizer

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JOB proposes alternatives to youth municipal fines

Ever since hosting a large public forum this past March, JOB has been exploring ways to address youth concerns and the need to engage youth in a positive way. One outcome is a campaign to create alternatives to monetary fines for juvenile cases in Municipal Court.

During the first two months of the current school year, 366 municipal citations were issued against students in the Beloit school system. About 70 percent of these were issued to Beloit Memorial High students. The majority of citations were for offenses such as disorderly conduct, curfew violations and theft. The court processed over 1,000 juvenile cases in 2007.

Youth and youth agency leaders have reported that many young people have difficulty paying these fines. The result is that youth are denied a job or driver's license, and eventually face an arrest warrant. A Beloit probation officer reported that one of her juvenile clients had compiled \$5,000 in court fines.

JOB's Youth Justice Task Force has proposed creation of a *Restorative Youth Justice Project*. The project would enable the Municipal Court to divert juvenile offenders to an agency where they would be assessed and assigned to a program to perform community service, restitution or some other action.

JOB is exploring restorative justice programs created in Milwaukee, Barron and other counties that have reduced youth arrests, recidivism and school suspensions.

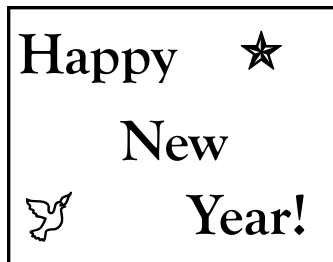
The organization plans to continue to press for restorative justice programs in Rock County in 2009. Contact JOB if you would like to be involved in this campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 17 –
JOB Leadership
Retreat
- February 6-7
– ELCA
clergy & lay
training
- March 10 –
Madison
Action Day:
People of
Faith United
for Justice

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County endorses Justice Act

At the urging of JOB, the Rock County Board of Supervisors voted to endorse the Wisconsin Community Justice Act at its meeting on December 11. County Supervisor Marv Wopat introduced the resolution.

The Community Justice Act (CJA) is designed to support community-based intervention strategies so judges, prosecutors and law enforcement have more options for

non-violent offenders. The legislation would provide local governments with more funds for drug treatment courts and other programs.

The CJA will build on TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) legislation passed two years ago. WISDOM – JOB's statewide network – pushed for creation of TAD, which provides grants for counties to develop alternatives to incarceration. Rock

County received one of the first TAD grants, which it uses to fund its drug treatment court.

WISDOM is one of about 20 organizations and public officials that came together to propose the Community Justice Act. These groups and officials hope to attach the CJA to the new state budget, with a significant increase in funding for community-based corrections.



Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB)

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Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB) is a coalition of faith communities uniting to act for justice, build power, and transform communities in the Stateline area. JOB's primary purpose is to create a strong institution-based organization to powerfully engage and impact public decisions and give voice to the poor and powerless.

Rev. Rene Vivas and Rev. Nedly Astudillo spoke about immigration raids during JOB's Public Meeting on October 30 at the Eclipse Center in Beloit.



www.justiceovercomingborders.org

Check out next year's training calendar

JOB offers a variety of leadership training opportunities through its Wisconsin and national networks. They can help you enhance your leadership and organizing skills and develop attitudes to become a more powerful person.

Plan now to enroll in one of these events and take advantage of an opportunity to change your life:

- **Ntosake**, leadership training conducted by and for women, January 29-31 in St. Louis. JOB would like to send six or more women to this event.
- **Deepen Lutheran Leadership for Public Engagement**, three-day training for Lutheran clergy and lay leaders, sponsored by South Central Synod, ELCA, and JOB, February 6-8, in Dane or Rock County.

- **Stewards of Hope Institute**, local leadership training, February 20-21, in southeastern Wisconsin.
- **National clergy training**,



- **Weeklong National Leadership Training**, July 12-18 in the East; and August 9-15 in the Midwest.

Check out the Gamaliel Foundation website (www.gamaliel.org) or WISDOM (www.gamaliel.org/WISDOM) for more details about these training opportunities.

Check out Washington forum on Gamaliel website

Several JOB leaders attended the Gamaliel Foundation's International Leadership Assembly in Washington, D. C. in early December. Visit the Gamaliel website to watch the **Realizing the Promise** forum held there, featuring national labor and community leaders, members of Congress, and representatives of Barack Obama's transition team. You can also view a press conference that was held on Capitol Hill regarding immigrant rights, featuring Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL). Chair of the Democratic Caucus.