



Stateline Organizer

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL—MAY, 2009

Help JOB Plant Seeds of Justice

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 1st – Town Hall Meeting with Tammy Baldwin on Health Care Crisis
- May 19th – *Planting Seeds of Justice: JOB Spring Fundraiser*
- June 19-20th – *Just Communities & Vital Congregations: Leadership Training for Lutherans*

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Planting Seeds of Justice, JOB's First Annual Spring Fundraiser, will take place on Tuesday evening, **May 19**, at 7 p.m. The event will feature Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney David Lerman, speaking about how restorative justice principles and practices can improve our schools. Tiara Purifoy, Beloit native and former *American Idol* star, will perform. The event will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 2222 Shopiere Road, Beloit. There is a suggested donation of \$10/person at the door.

Over the past year, JOB has begun to address issues relating to the needs of youth, and specifically, how to keep them out of the criminal justice system. The Beloit Municipal Court recently agreed to initiate a program proposed by JOB to refer some juveniles to the Rock Communities Youth Network. There, they will be assessed and assigned to a local agency to perform community service instead of paying a cash fine. Now, JOB wants to explore how restorative justice programs could be incorporated into Stateline schools

to address discipline and violence issues before they result in contact with law enforcement. D.A. Lerman will talk about how restorative justice has significantly reduced school suspensions and other problems in Milwaukee schools. Plan to attend the May 19th program to help support JOB, and to learn more about restorative justice and how you can help *plant seeds of justice* for our youth.

Speak out to fix health care system

Is fixing our broken health care system important to you? Do you think it should be a priority for Congress to pass health care reform legislation this year?

If so, we invite you to join other JOB leaders as we make our voice heard at a Town Hall Meeting on health care reform on Friday evening, May 1. The meeting is hosted by Congressperson Tammy Baldwin and sponsored by

Health Care for American Now (HCAN), a coalition of organizations that includes JOB and WISDOM. It will take place at the Madison Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park Street, Madison, from 5:30 till 7 p.m.

WISDOM groups played a key role in similar town hall meetings in U.S. Representative Ron Kind's district (La Crosse) and U. S. Representative Steve Kagen's district

(Green Bay) earlier this spring. Since voting on health care legislation will probably occur this summer, this will be our last chance to show Congresswoman Baldwin that her constituents feel strongly that the health care crisis must be addressed now.

If you have a story you would like to share with

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Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB)

1406 Willowbrook Road, #110
Beloit WI 53511
608/201-5326

Health Care Town Hall Meeting - from page one

Tammy about how lack of adequate health insurance has personally impacted you, your family, or your business, let us know about it. Call 608/201-5326 or 608/362-7356 to arrange to carpool with JOB to the Town Hall Meeting. Check our website to see JOB's principles for ethical health care reform, which have been adopted by other faith-based organizations around Wisconsin.



www.justiceovercomingborders.org

Leadership training for Lutherans (& others)

JOB is collaborating with the ELCA South Central Synod to offer a special two-day leadership retreat called *Vital Congregations – Just Communities*. The workshop will take place the weekend of June 19 – 20 at Covenant Lutheran Church in Stoughton.

This initiative is made possible through funding from the Ministry Among People in Poverty Committee (MAPP) of the ELCA. The goal is to equip Lutheran pastors and lay leaders to develop and deepen congregations as communities for public engagement. The training will be led by professional trainers from the Gamaliel Foundation and WISDOM, along with local clergy.

The training program will start at noon on Friday and end with worship at 5:30 pm on Saturday. The fee is \$30, which includes four

meals at the church. Pastors and lay leaders from faith traditions other than Lutheran are also invited to attend. Contact Rev. Kurt Handrich [608/312-1087] or Rev. Bond Haldeman [608/208-0283] for registration information.

JOB also offers a variety of leadership training opportunities through its Wisconsin [WISDOM] and national network [Gamaliel Foundation]. These workshops 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 Gamaliel's weeklong training sessions and take advantage of an opportunity to change your life.

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.

National Leadership Training will take place at Techny (north of Chicago) from August 9 to 15. Call 608/201-5326 for further information.

Do you have a story of mistreatment to share?

Members of Pueblos Unidos and JOB are gathering testimony from individuals concerning what they feel are incidents of discrimination or racial profiling by the police or other agencies in Beloit. Please contact one of these leaders of Pueblos Unidos if you have a story you would be willing to share, in writing or in person: Ana Jimenez, 608/346-1249 or Leonardo Jimenez, 608/312-1515.