

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP, 2018

Monthly Public Forums

- Jan. Economic development must be equitable and inclusive
- Mar. It's never too late! (to earn your high school diploma)
- April Community Forum meeting on fair housing
- May What can we learn from the 2017 School Corporation Annual Report
- June Trauma: A public health Crisis
- Aug Exciting Housing Possibilities for South Bend's West Side
- Sept The Power of Restorative Justice
- Oct. Support Public Schools
- Nov The midterm election is over; Where do we go from here?

Educational Seminars

- Learn about TIFS
- Learn about Evictions in South Bend

Outreach events

- We co-sponsored, provided financial support and/or maintained an information table at:
 - Little Taste of Peace
 - MLK Jr. Day of Celebration at the Century Center
 - Kennedy Park Neighborhood Association Community Center
 - Juneteenth, sponsored by Indiana Black Expo
 - PRIDE week, sponsored by the LGBTQ Center
 - "Get Down Town" event
 - Fremont Youth Foundation Block Party
 - Celebrating Michiana Women Leaders
 - Hear Our Tears (support for temporary housing for victims of domestic violence)
 - Mamas Against Violence conference: Building Unity for a Safer Community
 - LWV Voters Guide

Social Events

- May Dinner for potential members (featured the struggle of School Bus Drivers)
- June Barbecue Picnic at Rum Village Park

Participation in Coalitions

- Coalition for the Common Good
- Community Coalition for Immigration Reform
- Lead Affinity Group
- Michiana Social Justice Coalition
- Northern Indiana Community Coalition for Health Care
- Forum on economic development in St. Joseph County
(co-sponsors: Open Space & Agricultural Alliance, Environmental Network of Northern Indiana, Lead Affinity Group)

Supported efforts of

Ardmore neighbors opposing South Shore location
Retired workers from Honeywell (loss of health benefits)
SBCSC School Bus Drivers for a wage increase
Toys for Tots program
VITA program (income tax preparation for low income taxpayers)

Organized for changes in policies and practices concerning

1. Economic Development

- We are in discussion with representatives of the St. Joseph County Council concerning the implementation of the County Tax Abatement Ordinance, passed in 2009 in response to efforts of the Coalition for Responsible Tax Abatements.
- We advocated that the need for racial economic equity should drive all of South Bend's policy decisions, including decisions about how the city invests its resources. The location of the proposed South Shore station provides one example of doing so.

2. Equal Access to Quality Education

- Working through CAFÉ, we continued to build the campaign to end the School to Prison Pipeline and to support the use of restorative justice methods instead of suspensions and expulsions.
- Working through the Coalition for the Common Good, we supported the SBCSC School Bus Drivers in their effort to achieve wages that were competitive with other school corporations in our region.

3. Safe and Affordable Housing

- The need for safe and affordable housing has been central to our organizing efforts since South Bend's Vacant and Abandoned Task Force Report was released in February 2013. From the beginning, we advocated that the solution should include rehabilitation wherever possible and demolition only when necessary. By August 2013, we had developed our position paper "Neighbors Saving Neighborhoods, Using a Community-Based Approach to Address Vacant and Abandoned Housing." Since then we have continued to support or oppose local government policies that were consistent with our position. Recently we have seen public and private practices that have directed resources to areas of the City that have formerly been ignored. We applaud that development and will continue to advocate for a program of "Development without Displacement."