



*Interfaith Council
for Peace & Justice*

ICPJ IMPACT REPORT

(January– September 2022)

We Are 
Celebrating

GENERATIONS CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

On June 26th more than 80 folks gathered and we collectively raised \$3,500 with another \$22,000 pledged to support the campaign to strengthen and build our peace & justice movement work!



MOHAMMED'S KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Mohammed was in sanctuary at the Quaker House supported by the Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary and on September 3rd he received a life-saving kidney transplant!

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

We have been awarded grants to support ICPJ's work directly and we have been able to write grants to support important work that our partners are doing. See how we are putting the funds to work below!



Building Community Power & Practicing Democracy



EDUCATION

June 20th and 23rd, the **Voters Organizing Through Engagement (VOTE) Caucus** hosted Candidate Forums focused on Racial and Economic Justice issues for the State Representative District 32 race and the contested County Commission races (districts 5 and 6 participated.) We had at least 100 attendees during the live forums and another 460 who viewed the video afterwards!



ADVOCACY

We secured a grant through **Black Voters Matter Fund** which allowed us to support grassroots activists in Ypsilanti Township as they organize around the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and community engagement there. We shared information about the Ann Arbor ARPA survey and encouraged community members to allocate more money to the Unarmed Response area, to better fit with the **Coalition for Re-envisioning Our Safety (CROS)** Plan, and the proposed amount was changed from \$2M to \$3.5M.

We have been spreading information and offering support to people and small organizations around the county's Community Priority Fund to move more resources to the grassroots. We were able to connect community network partners to put forward a proposal to provide youth programming in Sycamore Meadows using Superior Township ARPA funding.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

With support of **United Way's Justice Fund** and the **First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor's Jackson Social Justice Fund**, we have been organizing conversations centering racial and economic justice to imagine how we could re-allocate resources equitably across the county through the four-year budget. We have met with groups and individuals from unhoused communities, labor leaders, tenants' rights organizers, and youth to discuss a community vision for our future.



During conversations at the **Warming Shelter**, at the **MISSION BBQs in Wheeler Park**, at the **Purple House**, and **Peace House**, unhoused neighbors developed extensive ideas for how we need to re-direct the county budget. One of the important concepts being developed is an **Emergency Shelter** on the eastern side of the county. We met with about 20 youth who proposed projects like neighborhood hang out and resource hubs, local access to food and the arts, and community parades as things they'd like to see funded.

On Sept. 20 we hosted a Community Gathering about the County Budget and the 30 attendees shared more ideas of what needs to be funded and ways that they could be included in proposals that can be created to share with the county during public engagement.



CAPACITY BUILDING

We built capacity for members of our network to research, develop questions with community input, and create a Racial and Economic Justice Questionnaire. The hope is that the resource can also become an accountability tool for the elected County Commissioners.



United Way
of Washtenaw County

Criminal Legal System



ADVOCACY

Washtenaw Equity Partnership is working collaboratively to develop a transparent, coordinated, evidence-based Community Plan for identifying and addressing racial disparities across all components of the Washtenaw County juvenile and adult criminal legal systems and assuring the Plan's implementation.

ICPJ is represented on the Working Group as well as in 5 of the 6 subcommittees (prevention/front end, behavioral health, court process, post-sentencing and re-entry, and data.) Recommendations should be ready to share by early next year!

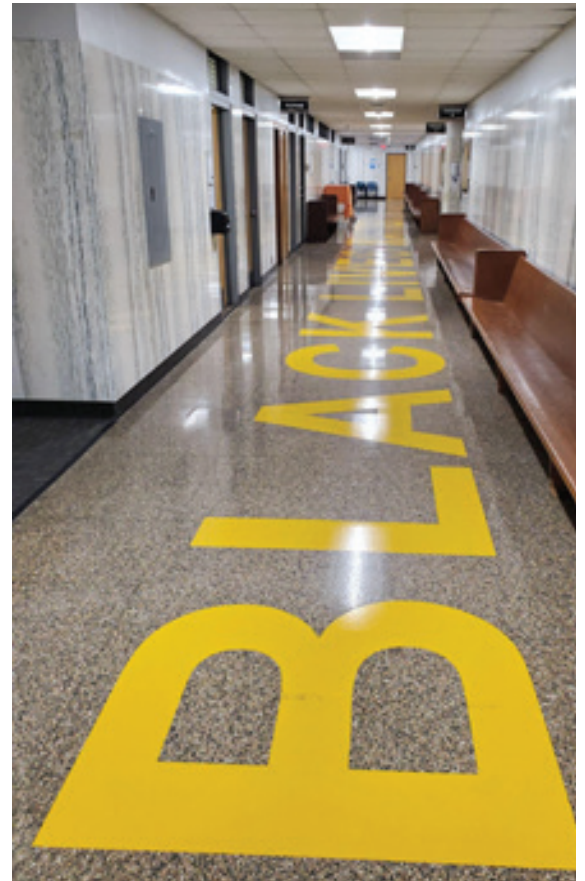


DIRECT ACTION

The **RE:CLAIM (Rooted Exhibit: Community, Love, Abundance, Intergenerational, Multiplicity)** project is an arts-based, multi-disciplinary take-over of a historic municipal site, the Washtenaw County Court Building. **Youth Arts Alliance**, **ICPJ**, **Washtenaw My Brother's Keeper, Amplify Project**, and **Title Track** have joined together to collaborate with 100 members of the community to host a number of live public community discussions, music events, and immersive art.



On September 22nd, ICPJ hosted a **Compassionate Community Conversation** called "What If We Were All Free." We used poetry, storytelling, and reflection to help guide the conversation and to explore the foundational tenets of prison industrial complex abolition.



CAPACITY BUILDING

The **Local Mission Committee at First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor** awarded a 2022 Community Grant of \$5,000 to ICPJ for the **Warrant Resolution Project!**

Justice and Safety for Immigrants & Asylum Seekers & International Solidarity



EDUCATION/ADVOCACY

The Latin America Caucus hosted a speaker series with U of M Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Wayne State University Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies & Huron Valley Democratic Socialists of America (HVDSA).

Jan. 11th John Lindsay-Poland - U.S. Guns & Militarism in Mexico

Feb. 8th Lisa Haugaard - The Biden Administration's Approach towards the Northern Countries of Central America

Mar. 8th Danielle Mackey - Current Realities in El Salvador

April 12th Todd Miller - Borders, Homeland Security & Bridges

May 10th Mary Anne Perrone - The Struggle for Environmental, Racial & Human Rights in Honduras



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

The Immigration Caucus has continued to work on Driver's Licenses for All with the Drive Michigan Forward Coalition.

Youth As Cultural & Civic Leaders



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

We are excited to be building a collaboration with **Staying Power/Staying Home** and Youth Arts Alliance called "**Growing a Home for Healing.**" We received a three-year grant for \$37,500 each year to help fund this project through the **United Way Impact Fund.**



DIRECT ACTION

In collaboration with Youth Arts Alliance, **Student Advocacy Center**, and **Willow Run Acres Farm**, we hosted a **Community Memorial for LaRonte Benion-Phillips**, a young Black man killed by gun violence in Ypsi. It was a gathering with those impacted by his life to celebrate together and to remember.



Housing Is A Human Right



CAPACITY BUILDING

In partnership with the **Daytime Warming Center/MISSION**, we wrote a grant proposal that was fully funded at \$55,000 by the **Washtenaw County Community Priority Fund**.

This will allow them to expand the Warming Center weeks and add a Cooling Center, improve the outdoor food pantry, purchase camping gear/survival equipment for the unhoused, and to provide emergency mini-grants.



Local Climate Actions



EDUCATION

During our May 21 **Connect & Act**, we convened a session for a community conversation and information sharing about Ann Arbor's proposals and campaigns for the **Sustainable Energy Utility** and **Public Power**.



ADVOCACY

The **Caucus for Consumption, Waste, and the Climate Crisis** has been leading ICPJ's efforts to support the **Ann Arbor Climate Action Millage** which is crucial for Ann Arbor to do its part in curbing the rapidly-accelerating climate crisis. Essential to this effort is a commitment to equity in every aspect of this work. Everyone must reap the benefits of the transition to clean energy, regardless of wealth.

We support the ways that this millage will help repair systemic harm to historically marginalized communities -- communities of color and low-wealth residents -- those impacted the most by the climate crisis. We also support this millage as a way to slow climate change and mitigate its impact on our communities.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

We joined efforts to respond to the **Tribar contamination of the Huron River**. This included convening conversations with interested community members to take a number of coordinated actions. This work continues with a focus on the **Polluter Pay bill** that is being championed by State Senator Jeff Irwin.



MISSION

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice centers racial and economic justice as we address the root causes of violence from oppression, poverty, environmental devastation, patriarchy, and war. We wage love and practice nonviolence in all its forms through education, community organizing, advocacy, and direct action. We unite across our differences and empower leadership in people to create the change we need for a more peaceful and just world.

For more information you can check out the ICPJ Programming Overview and Review at bit.ly/ICPJProgramming22



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