Gentrification is a white collar crime.
–Gloria Robinson
This is not a small voice

Although it’s understandable why you might think so. Considering: the ongoing exile of low-income DC natives. The continued disenfranchisement of the largely Black and poor of New Orleans. Health care reform instead of health care revolution. State-sanctioned thievery otherwise known as the bank bailout. The disproportionate number of Black and Latino families who lost their homes—only to get blamed for the country’s economic woes because they were “irresponsible.” Demand for public services going up as dedicated funding declines. The centuries-old pilfering of the treasure that is Haiti. Need I go on?

But we must go on. One voice is not small—not at all. Despite what they tell you. Despite what they want, need, you to believe. And if a single voice has heft and hope in it—then voices raised in concert must be a force to be reckoned with indeed.

This is not a small love

This force is love. Love amplifies our voices. Love is our message and our megaphone. Cornel West has declared, “Affection is what justice looks like in public.” So ONE DC’s organizing for the human rights of low-income people of color is really a public display of affection (PDAs). Here’s a sampling of 2009’s PDAs:

- Rabble-rousing at the National People’s Action Network-sponsored town hall with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Testifying before Congress in support of the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, which is designed to boost low-income families’ access to affordable housing.
- Helping the Lincoln Westmoreland II Tenant Association successfully secured long-demanded maintenance repairs and a one-year extension on the project-based Section 8 contract.
- Kicking off a restaurant workers organizing campaign with Restaurant Opportunities Center of Washington, DC (ROC-DC).

And with more member leaders, on fire and in love, we can be even more public and power-full.

This is a love colored with iron and lace

Don’t doubt that we’re still talking about power. The power of the people! The power of solidarity and self-determination. “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love,” said Martin Luther King, Jr. Armed with the beauty of lace and the strength of iron, we’re love warriors. We fight racial and economic inequity so that no one ever thinks she or he has a small voice. Come on and get on the bus—the LOVE MOVEMENT bus!

With Love,

Dominic T. Moulden
Executive Director

Italicized lines are from the poem, “This Is Not A Small Voice,” by Sonia Sanchez.
Landmarks

Please join us in surveying 2009’s landscape of achievements...we’ve covered so much ground!

- Membership process redesigned to reflect new staffing and membership configurations.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Latino Cooperative rehab work finished (the organizing and educational aspect).
- Hosted gentrification discussion with the Howard University Student Association.
- Sponsored “Hip Hop Festival” fundraiser with Dance Place & MOMIE’s TLC.
- Boardmembers testified at Deputy Mayor’s Budget Oversight hearing.
- Emancipation Day event covered by Washington Post in print and video.
- Trained members in the NeighborWorks America Resident Leadership Development - Campaign Planning workshop.
- Conducted CBA training with the Reservoir Hill Improvement Council and the Cherry Hill Trust, respectively.
- Co-hosted the National Campaign to Restore Housing as a Human Right (with the National People’s Action).
- Testified at the Section 8 Congressional Hearing.
- Sponsored dialogue with Thai organizer Kovith Bonjear.
- Hosted three successful member-facilitated Leadership Education for Action Program (LEAP) sessions to discuss the impact globalization and other economic reforms have had on DC’s low-income people of color communities, cooperative economics practiced through cooperatives, radical visioning, and how to build healthy and organizing-focused relationships. Close to 60 people were in attendance to learn and share their expertise, and connect these topics to ONE DC’s community organizing efforts.
- Over 54 ONE DC members and local residents participated in the 2009 Freedom School.
- Partnership with Midnight Forum produces mobile mural.
- Launched the Right to Wellness & Healing campaign, “Nurturing the Movement by Nurturing Ourselves”
- Weaving Shared Leadership, a digital storytelling project for building multiethnic organizing strategies, was screened at the Plymouth Congregational Church (digital stories can be viewed at onedconline.org).
- Over 80 residents attended the HUD accountability forum sponsored by Hill Snowden; ONE DC members delivered riveting testimonies about the impact the lack of truly affordable housing and its consequential displacement of families have had on DC and their lives).
- The Shared Leadership Committee created organizational definitions for ONE DC’s leadership model.
- The ONE DC Hotel Jobs Campaign and the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Washington, DC (ROC-DC) entered into an organizing partnership.
- Representatives from the Parcel 42 Action group met with Councilmember Michael Brown’s

Through participating in the Freedom School, I learned about healing from within.

–Myeasha Taylor
Legislative Director and other housing advocates to discuss a potential legislative change to the definition of affordable housing.

The Lincoln Westmoreland II Tenant Association, with ONE DC organizing support, successfully secured long-demanded maintenance repairs and a one-year extension on the project-based Section 8 contract.

Thank you for joining us on our journey....

We appreciate each of our donors and supporters for powering our journey of justice. You’re the fuel, you fill us up!

Individual


We need love in community organizing just as we need the truth in community organizing. To love is to seek, find, and perpetuate the truth.

–William Stokes
Our notion of popular education at ONE DC redefines democracy in fresh, creative and dynamic ways.

–Saabir Khalid Moussa
### Revenue

- 28%: Developer’s fees
- 9%: Other income
- 6%: Contributions
- 55%: Government Grants
- 2%: Grants

### Expenses

- 22%: Administration
- 9%: Fundraising
- 10%: Housing preservation
- 2%: Tenant organizing
- 57%: Community organizing
The next time I read a love poem
At a revolutionary meeting
I’ll make sure and tell the “revolutionaries”
That there will be no revolution
Until we learn how to respect our women
Until we learn how to treat our men
Until we learn how to love each other

—from “Revolutionary Love Poem,” by Kwame Alexander

LOVE CENTRAL was created at the first sessions of LEAP in 2008. Note the components for this new vision for social change:

- Community center
- Coop food and clothes
- Co-owned housing
- Wind power
- Cruelty free farms and food
- Multi-spiritual center
- Support center
- Community garden
- Credit unions