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JUSTICE
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The IAF created the modern model of broad-based organizing and is widely recognized as having the strongest track record in the nation for citizen leadership development and for helping congregations and other institutions to act on their missions to achieve lasting change in the world.

The IAF, which includes Metro IAF and West/Southwest IAF, currently works with thousands of religious congregations, non-profits, civic organizations, unions, small businesses, healthcare institutions, schools and other educational institutions in more than sixty-five cities across the United States and in Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

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West / Southwest IAF
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www.swiaf.org
info@wswiaf.org

A victory for essential workers.
2020 VICTORIES

REBUILDING OUR DEMOCRACY

Months of strictly non-partisan GOTV efforts by IAF affiliates resulted in increasing voter turnout and protecting the vote in historically low-turnout precincts in AZ, CA, DC, LA, NC, OH, TX and WI. Together Louisiana successfully blocked passage of Constitutional Amendment 5 which would have empowered major corporations to side-step state reforms and negotiate tax breaks directly with smaller municipalities. Together LA strategically engaged and educated voters in historically low-turnout neighborhoods that resulted in 63% of LA voters opposing the amendment.

NC Congress of Latino Organizations reached over 273,000 people in the Latino community resulting in an increase of voters in NC; 1,000 leaders in Common Ground joined key players from the Milwaukee Bucks to increase the vote in Milwaukee. WI; Greater Cleveland Congregations in OH succeeded in making sure 7,000 previously rejected ballot applications were accepted. Most importantly, leaders established a foundation for long-term neighborhood engagement built on conversations and institutional trust.

IAF is building out and expanding its power with exploratory efforts in: NC, OH and VA including rural areas in each state as well as in MI, Northern NV, Arkansas and the Silicon Valley, Fresno and Yolo, CA. IAF launched 3 new affiliates close to $11 million in cash and food and infrastructure in NY and Prince Georges Leadership Action Network in MD. Over 5,900 people from 120 new member institutions attended the founding actions for these organizations...

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & SUSTENANCE IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY

After the economic shutdown caused sharp reductions in family income, IAF organizations stepped into the void to leverage relief for economically stressed families by winning eviction moratoriums and CARES Act funding for rental relief.

Texas IAF organizations succeeded in winning over $328 million for added rental and housing relief for more than 120,000 families, including providing eligibility for undocumented immigrant residents. In addition, IAF organizations in CA, DC, MA, MD, NC, NY, OK & VA secured over $150 million for rental assistance including ONE Wake’s victory in which Wake County public officials directed $20 million from the CARES Act to homelessness and eviction prevention efforts in NC.

Metro IAF’s campaign to revitalize our country’s most dis-invested communities and build/preserve affordable homes in high-cost areas continued to grow in 2020 in DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY & VA. Metro IAF developed/financed/preserved over 15,900 housing units directly and through organizing. Metro IAF also leveraged $1.1 billion in public money through organizing for housing development.

To stop NE payday lenders from preying upon pandemic-stressed borrowers, Omaha Together One Community helped pass Initiative 428, saving approximately $7,000 families $21 million per year in payments by capping interest rates at 36%, rather than 387% per year.

Affiliates in MD, NJ, and NY organized over $7 million resulting in jobs, saved businesses and the distribution of over 3.5 million meals. Texas IAF organizations leveraged close to $8 million in cash and food support for 12,208 families. In Dallas, TX, partners serving immigrant communities provided essential sustenance to 8,000 families. In IA, AMOS secured five additional school meal sites at apartment complexes housing refugee families and their children, and also raised over $215,000 in emergency funds for 1,100 Story County, IA immigrants left out of federal stimulus disbursement. Coloradans for the Common Good worked with local public schools to triple school meals available during the winter break and NJ Together secured more than 2,000 additional free meals for low-income students.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & RACIAL JUSTICE

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization secured passage of an historic law which addresses police misconduct, deadly force and accountability, bringing MA forward as a national leader in police accountability reform. Congregations for a New Connecticut pushed and won new regulations for police accountability that include more diversity, decertification due to misconduct, and exhausting all alternatives before the use of deadly force.

VOICE in VA delivered justice to 672,000 Virginians whose drivers licenses were restored after being suspended over unpaid court debt and an unprecedented win for residents of Prince William County, VA, a majority people of color county, as they opened the first Public Defender office.

Organizers in AZ, MA, NC & NJ won increased testing for thousands of incarcerated people in state prisons and prison guards and pushed for early release of individuals that had served the majority of their time and met other qualifications to reduce prison populations and exposure to COVID-19. East Brooklyn Congregations in NY began worked with formerly incarcerated individuals, helping find affordable housing, living wage jobs, mental health aid, and legal representation.

Amidst a nationwide reckoning with state-sponsored racial oppression. Working Together Mississippi called on the state legislature to officially retire the state flag which included a symbol of the Confederacy. Leaders from all walks of faith worked together to successfully pressure state legislators to retire and re-design a new flag that better represents the state.

SUSTAINING PUBLIC SCHOOLS & BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Arizona IAF organizations engaged thousands of voters around Proposition 208 – a state ballot proposition to increase funding for public schools. Passed with a slim margin, Proposition 208 is set to leverage over $900 million annually for more than one million public school students.

As schools and businesses closed, we pivoted to working & learning from home. Coloradans for the Common Good moved Comcast to help close the digital divide by including immigrants in their no-cost high speed internet program and pushed state legislators to pass a bill to ensure $20 million in grants for school districts serving low-income children to broaden student internet access.

Disparities in access to wi-fi led leaders in NY and IL to leverage over $1.6 million to create mesh wi-fi networks which will provide free internet access to thousands of underserved people. Common Ground leaders in WI pushed the Milwaukee Public School district early in the pandemic to develop and deliver on-line learning to all of their students.

Metro IAF affiliates in DC, MD, NJ, and NY won commitments of over $141 million to: facilitate much needed renovations; hire and rehire hundreds of teachers; implement a program dedicated to school based mental health; and restore school transportation budgets. Leaders in NC negotiated and won additional bilingual positions within 2 separate school districts, and got free access to technology and wi-fi for 13,300 Spanish speaking children.

HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH

Greater Cleveland Congregations in OH created the Color of Health Initiative, which seeks equal access to testing and creation of a comprehensive community-wide support network as a matter of justice in this time of COVID-19. GBIO won passage of MA law that guarantees Covid 19 care regardless of network coverage; increases protection of patients against unfair surprise medical billing for out of network care; and guarantees access to Telehealth.

COPA preserved $2 million in funding for EsperanzaCare which provides healthcare services for 3,500 low-income undocumented immigrants, and compelled the Monterey County, CA Board of Supervisors to invest $5 million in the creation of a “Community Outreach & Education” program to engage 10,000 residents in the hardest-hit neighborhoods around covid prevention, treatment and recovery – including access to resources for rent and healthcare services.

In IA, AMOS leveraged an additional $5 million in funding to support 9,000 Polk County residents with mental health services. In West TX, WOTOS secured $70,000 in Lubbock County funding for mental health programming, DuPage United in IL organized to improve patient mental health restoration outcomes and reduce jail time for mentally ill persons charged with misdemeanors. Individuals are now remanded by the courts to Elgin Mental Health Center. As a result of Greater Cleveland Congregations relentless campaign for a long-needed mental health and addiction crisis diversion center to keep people out of jail, Cuyahoga County, OH elected officials announced the creation of a center to open in Spring 2021.
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IMPACT REPORT

2020