



issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

A SINCERE THANK YOU FROM SHAWN HAWKINS, WHO RECEIVED CLEMENCY:



“To all my supporters, Thanks to you and all your love, concern and support, we have managed to achieve an incredibly victory. We have slowly and steadily climbed that

proverbial mountain to conquer and claim what was rightfully deserved.

To be sure, such a monumental task hasn't been easy; it has been a life-changing experience. I will never be the same because of it. And more than the indubitable experience of spending over 20 years fighting for my life, what I will most take away from this whole ordeal, is the wealth of love & support from every one of you out there who made the time & put forth the effort on my behalf to help make a difference.

I send out a collective embrace and best wishes to every one of you. Be sure to follow me on Twitter! Just kidding (laugh). Be good my friends. We did it!”

— Shawn Hawkins

(Read more about this case on page 2)

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A few of our summer volunteers pictured R-L: Ryan Ramsey, Linda Davis, Greg Zoller of University of Cincinnati, Joan Tenhundfeld of The College of Mount St Joseph, and Darnell Miller of Xavier University

Volunteers and Interns Stay Cool During Hot Summer Projects

IJPC's 25th anniversary year is over. We celebrated our victories and transformations and look to the future with renewed commitment, renewed passion, confirmed focus, reaffirmed priorities; all this with the dedicated guidance of our wonderful membership.

Now onto the next 25 years – At a recent meeting the IJPC Board of Directors approved a redesigned logo – being used for the first time in this newsletter! The IJPC mission has been restated to read - IJPC educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national, and global systems, and promotes the creation of a non-violent society.

The IJPC vision was clarified to carry us forward. IJPC envisions a world where:

- People resolve conflicts peacefully and non-violently

- Life is valued
- Resources are shared equitably
- Diverse perspectives are valued and heard
- Human rights are respected.

Once again we extend our gratitude for the hundreds of individuals and families who donated to our annual phon-a-thon. IJPC cannot provide the quality of programs and services without you.

IJPC would like to pay special tribute to our amazing volunteers. During the 2010-2011 year IJPC enjoyed the expertise of thousands of hours of volunteer's service in our office, with the market value of over \$70,000 in donated time and talent—this does not account for the thousands of additional hours spent by volunteers on issue committees and at events. **THANK YOU!**

GOVERNOR KASICH GRANTS SHAWN HAWKINS CLEMENCY: A MOTHER'S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

On June 8th 2011, Shawn Hawkins awoke early. It was the day he would learn whether he would live or die. Eventually, he fell back asleep and had a dream. In his dream someone was unlocking a door – at that moment he opened his eyes and saw one guard unlocking his cell door. One guard was a good sign; typically they send two. The guard escorted Shawn to the Warden. Shawn immediately tried to read his facial expression. Then, Warden Bobby smiled and told Shawn that Governor Kasich had granted him clemency.

When Shawn arrived back at his cell, he fell down, thanked God and allowed the news to sink in. Later on, Shawn called home and shared in



Judy Hogan prays at the Way of Cross / Way of Justice, on April 22nd, 2011.

the tears, relief, and joy. Judy Hogan, Shawn's mother, stated, "I had always prayed that I would win the lottery some day – and now I have."

SHAWN HAWKINS CONTINUES THE FIGHT

Although Shawn Hawkins received clemency because of the many doubts surrounding his conviction, his sentence is now life without the possibility of parole. While possible innocence spared his life, he faces a possible lifetime in prison. Shawn, his family, and his legal team are dedicated to continuing the fight and further investigating the evidence that brings his conviction into question. At the moment, they need to raise money to fund this work. If you are interested in making a donation towards this cause or if your place of worship would be interested in having one of Shawn's family members speak and seek support, please contact Sr. Alice Gerdeman at IJPC, 513-579-8547.

BRETT HARTMAN RECEIVES A REPRIEVE and KENNETH SMITH HAS A STAY:

Ohio Governor John Kasich postponed Brett's execution in response to a ruling by Judge Gregory Frost questioning the state's execution practices. Kasich postponed the execution of Brett Hartman from August 16, 2011 until November 13, 2012.

Judge Frost's ruling came in the

case of Kenneth Smith in which the judge found that Ohio enforces some of its execution policies inconsistently. "Ohio pays lip service to standards it then often ignores without valid reasons," Frost wrote, "sometimes with no physical ramification and sometimes with what has

been described as messy if not botched executions." Kenneth Smith, who had a July execution date, now has a stay. A trial that would allow Smith to argue that the state violates the federal constitution with its uneven application of its rules for executing inmates is scheduled in late October.

PLEASE SIGN ONLINE PETITIONS:

Brett Hartmann – November 13, 2012

<http://www.petitiononline.com/bhartman/petition.html>

Billy Slagle – September 20, 2011

<http://www.petitiononline.com/m192001/petition.html>

Joseph Murphy – October 18, 2011

<http://www.petitiononline.com/101811/petition.html>

*There are currently 10 executions scheduled between now and November, 2012.

UPDATE FROM OTSE: H.B. 160 HEARING RESCHEDULED FOR FALL 2011

The hearing on House Bill 160 -- the bill that would repeal Ohio's death penalty -- has been postponed until fall, after legislators return to Columbus from the summer recess. This just means that we have extra time to continue building up support to ensure that the initial proponent testimony hearing is a success! If you want to get involved, contact Kevin Werner with Ohioans to Stop Executions: [\(614\) 560-0654](tel:6145600654); kwerner@otse.org

Founding Sponsors:

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DEFINE "AMERICAN"

In a recent New York Times article, Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize winner and fascinating writer, **came out to the world as an undocumented immigrant.** The courage he expressed through his words illustrated a life that is very similar to what approximately 65,000 DREAMers experience in the US every year. His story touched the lives of many readers across the country. Jose Antonio, born in the Philippines, goes into detail about his struggles to move forward in life. Vargas describes coming to the US at the age of 12 and becoming aware

"Yet even though I think of myself as an American and consider America my country, my country doesn't think of me as one of its own."

that his immigration documents were not valid at the age of 16. **His story is very powerful and it seeks to promote dialogue about the United States' broken immigration system, and advocate for the DREAM Act** which would help youth in similar circumstances to be able to follow a path to citizenship. To do so, he launched a campaign called "Define American" a campaign to encourage *real dialogue* about immigration



Jose Antonio Vargas writes about his life being an undocumented immigrant for 18 years

in the US in order to bring about *real solutions*. (defineamerican.com) Vargas' courage has encouraged many and is a **true example of why comprehensive and humane reform is needed NOW!** Following is an excerpt from his piece: "But I am still an undocumented immigrant. And that means living a different kind of reality. It means going about my day in fear of being found out. It means rarely trusting people, even those closest to me, with who I really am. It means keeping my family photos in a shoebox rather than displaying them on shelves in my home, so friends don't ask about them. It means reluctantly, even painfully, doing things I know are wrong and unlawful..."

Follow this link to continue reading:
www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/magazine/my-life-as-an-undocumented-immigrant.html



Xavier University Summer Service intern Darnell Miller and staff member Mayra Alza greet visitors at the YES booth at the LULAC Exhibit during their National Convention held at the Duke Energy Center downtown Cincinnati.

Right now: Our Major Focus is to educate about the DREAM Act by working in coalition with local and national DREAM Act groups to stop the deportations of DREAMers.

Contact Mayra at mayra@ijpc-cincinnati.org for more details and other updates!

WHY JOIN YES?

- To build personal & professional relationships with others who care about immigrant rights
- To build a network of student organizations from area colleges and universities and with other young leaders
- To have an opportunity to receive leadership training
- To stand courageously and speak out about immigration



Youth Educating Society
YOUNG LEADERS FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

A program of IJPC

GET THE FACTS ON IMMIGRATION

**September 24
9:30 AM to 12:00**

**Madison Avenue
Christian Church**

(1530 Madison Ave. Covington, KY)

**Mini- workshops to answer
your questions**

Myths about Immigration
Present Immigration Law
The Dream Act and other legislation
Organizing Strategies
How to Educate Others

For: Teachers, Church Members,
Civic Organizations, Those
Who Care

To Register:

Email: alice@ijpc-cincinnati.org

Sponsored By:

Northern Kentucky Justice and
Peace Committee

It's FREE!



Join Us for Our Next Nonviolent Peacemaking Training

Our next nonviolent peacemaking training will be held at Peaslee Neighborhood Center on Saturday, September 10th from 9am to 4pm. Based on a curriculum developed by Nonviolent Peaceforce North America, this day-long workshop will introduce you to techniques you can use when faced with a conflict that might turn nasty or vio-

lent. By defusing the immediate situation, you create a space that gives everyone time to understand the root of the conflict and to resolve it in a peaceful way. If you're interested, please RSVP to Kristen at 513-579-8547. The workshop costs \$25 to attend (to cover materials and lunch), but scholarships are available.



INTRODUCING THE PUBLIC SQUARE



Looking for a comfortable and respectful place to discuss contemporary issues? Join us at Iris Book Café, 1331 Main Street, on the third Monday of every month at 7pm for the Public Square for facilitated dialogue on a variety of topics. IJPC's dialogue process involves sharing perspectives, listening, reflecting back, and asking genuine questions. It offers a way to go beyond the rhetoric and delve into the nuances of issues that can be confrontational. Recent dialogues have included topics as diverse as the Arab Spring, the national debt, and the extreme weather across the country. Call our office for more information!

Some comments from those who attended a recent Public Square:

"It allows me to hear a broad spectrum of thoughts and ideas in a respectful, non-threatening environment. Keep it going."

"It's always helpful to hear from others who have different life experiences."

Upcoming Dialogue Facilitator Training

The success of any small group dialogue relies on the presence of skilled facilitators. To that end, we are offering a Day of Dialogue Facilitator Training on Saturday, October 29 from 9am to 12:30pm at Peaslee. It will be a great experience for enhancing facilitation skills, active listening skills, and constructive inquiry skills that can be used in the classroom, in the home, and in the community. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call Kristen at 513-579-8547.

Dialogue on Emerging Spirituality: A Pathway Within

Bellarmino Parish, Xavier University's Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice, and Xavier University Theology



Department are co-sponsoring an IJPC-facilitated dialogue on Emerging Spirituality: The Pathway Within. This is a follow up to the dialogue, "A church in Pain! Pathways

to Healing. We continue with the recognition that grace loves chaos. Through large and small group dialogue, we will explore a dynamic emerging spirituality, engage in communal contemplative experience, and step into our inner authority as we honor the past and create a new future together. The dialogue will be held on October 10th from 6pm to 9pm (pizza 6:00-6:30; program 6:30-9:00) in the Conaton Board Room in Schmidt Hall at Xavier University (3800 Victory Parkway). Free parking is

available on University Drive and Cintas Parking lot. RSVP to Katie Minning at 513-745-3567 or minning@xavier.edu

**FEATURED
ISSUE**

SAYING YES TO IMMIGRATION

It is time to say YES to Comprehensive Immigration Reform!
FOR THE BENEFIT OF TAXPAYERS, WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AMERICA AS A WHOLE



A new report, “*Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform*,” by Dr. Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda, finds that comprehensive immigration reform that includes a legalization program for unauthorized immigrants and enables a future flow of legal workers would result in a

LARGE ECONOMIC BENEFIT:

- A cumulative \$1.5 trillion in added U.S. GDP over 10 years
- An increase in tax revenues of \$4.5-\$5.4 billion in the first 3 years
- An increase in consumer spending—enough to support 750,000–900,000 jobs in the US

IN CONTRAST, a deportation-only policy would result in a loss of \$2.6 trillion in GDP over 10 years.

Source: *Immigration Policy Center*

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WILL CREATE NEW TAXPAYERS, RAISE NEW REVENUE, CUT ENFORCEMENT COSTS, AND ESSENTIALLY HELP OUR ECONOMY RECOVER

- While undocumented workers are ineligible for almost all federal public assistance programs, between 1/2 and 3/4 of undocumented workers *pay* federal and state income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare taxes. Fixing the immigration system and giving them a path to legalization would enable everyone to pay into the tax system.
- Trying to eliminate the undocumented workforce through enforcement-only policies such as E-verify would only result in *decreased* tax revenues. The Congressional Budget Office concluded that mandatory E-Verify would decrease federal revenues by \$17.3 billion between 2009 and 2018, mainly because it would result in an increase in the number of workers who are being paid outside the tax system.

- Research shows that immigrants are 30% more likely to form new businesses than U.S. born citizens. In fact, immigrants—including the unauthorized—*create* jobs through their purchasing power, buying goods and services from U.S. businesses and their entrepreneurship, creating their own businesses, both of which sustain U.S. jobs.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD REAFFIRM THE AMERICAN VALUES OF HARD WORK AND FAIRNESS, AND BUILD STRONGER FAMILIES

- Our current immigration laws filled with visa quotas and other delays can keep members apart for years or even decades. Depending on the situation, it can take an average of almost 5 years for a legal permanent resident to get a visa for his or her spouse or young child, and 10 years to get a visa for a son or daughter who is over the age of 21. A comprehensive legislation should regulate this situation *significantly* so that

future immigration is controlled, orderly, and legal.

- According to the Pew Hispanic Center, 3 million US citizens have at least 1 undocumented parent. Under our current system, these children of “mixed-status” families live under fear and threat that they will either be separated from their parents or forced to leave their home country: the United States. Immigration reform should allow them to grow up in *stable* American families.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD ENSURE THAT ALL WORKERS ARE HERE WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION, RESTORING FAIRNESS AND LABOR STANDARDS

- A legalization process will *bring up* the wages for all workers in the United States. According to a report by the Center for American Progress and the Immigration Policy Center, comprehensive immigration reform that includes a

The immigration issue in the United States represents a lot more than just a broken system. For many families, it represents a daily struggle guided by great uncertainty, anxiety, and fear.

- legalization program would **increase** the real wages of less-skilled legalized workers by \$4,405 per year. At the same time, higher-skilled workers would see a yearly wage increase of \$6,185 per year.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW AND MAINTAIN AMERICAN SAFETY

- The Police Foundation has found that 74% of police chiefs are concerned that immigration enforcement will have a **negative effect** on community relations by decreasing the trust the entire community feels toward police. Comprehensive immigration reform would enable police to rebuild trusting relationships with their communities, reducing community tensions and allegations related to racial profiling.
- Numerous studies by independent researchers and government commissions over the past 100 years consistently have found that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes or be behind bars than the native-born. Although the undocumented immigrant population **doubled** to

about 12 million from 1994 to 2005, the violent crime rate in the US **declined** by 34.2% and the property crime rate fell by 26.4%. This is not surprising since immigrants come here to pursue economic and educational opportunities not available in their home countries and to build better lives for themselves and their families.

YES TO EDUCATION: THE DREAM ACT CREATES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- A 2010 study by the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center estimates that the total earnings of DREAM Act beneficiaries over the course of their working lives would be between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion. Enabling undocumented youth to access higher education would go a long way, **boosting** the number of highly skilled American workers. As they take their place in the workplace as hard working,

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is a bipartisan legislation introduced by Sen. Hatch [R-UT] and Sen. Durbin [D-IL] that will enable undocumented youth to be eligible for a 6 year long conditional path to citizenship that requires completion of a college degree or 2 years of military service.



There are an estimated **1.9 million undocumented children** and young adults in the United States who might be eligible for the DREAM Act.

taxpaying Americans, they will contribute a lifetime of revenues at the local, state and federal level.

YES: THE DREAM ACT WOULD KEEP TALENTED STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Letting the talent of many DREAM Act eligible students go to waste imposes economic costs on today's society. The DREAM Act would stop the brain drain by allowing our most determined and brightest students to remain in the US.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that many of the occupations that will be most in demand in years to come will rely on highly educated workers. Of the 15 occupations projected to grow at least twice as fast as the national average, 10 require an associate degree or higher. For this reason, passing the DREAM Act is necessary to help these **talented students** gain access to postsecondary educational opportunities and the workforce as documented residents.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Contact Congress & your elected officials TODAY-** let them know how important it is to pass comprehensive immigration and the DREAM Act for the benefit of the country.
- **Get informed & Get Involved-** Educate yourself and build an opinion. For more resources, check out IJPC Immigration Resources Page at www.ijpc-cincinnati.org/immigration/immigration-resources

HOW TO HELP SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED

- **Gather Information about your friend:** Name, birth date, immigration status, etc.
- **Locate your friend:** If ICE arrested him/her, you can check the online Detainee Locator System at www.ice.gov/locator. If its local police, call the county jail.
- **Call the jail:** Ask if there are the criminal charges, if there is a bond, an ICE hold and the next criminal court date.
- **Call ICE:** Ask if they will release your friend or set an immigration bond. If your friend has an ICE hold, do NOT pay your friend's criminal bail unless ICE is releasing them or an immigration lawyer has instructed you to do so.
- **Find a Lawyer:** a. **Criminal Defense Attorney-** if your friend has charges against them.
b. **Immigration Attorney-** If your friend has an ICE detainer or has been picked up by ICE. A good place to look is www.aialawyer.com.
This is not legal advice. Whenever possible, you should consult a lawyer about your particular case.

10 Years in Afghanistan

Quick facts:

- On October 7th, 2011 the US will have been at war in Afghanistan for 10 years, the longest war in our history.
- We have spent over \$1.2 trillion dollars on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and currently spend \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan, \$120 billion a year.
- Over 6000 U.S. Soldiers have died and over 44,000 have been wounded in the wars. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have died.
- The “surge” of 30,000 additional troops in 2010 failed to stop increases in civilian casualties, troop deaths, and perceptions of government corruption among Afghans.
- The security situation in Afghanistan has continued its downward spiral and is now at its lowest point in ten years. The spring has been the deadliest time for U.S. forces and civilians.
- According to the CIA and General Petraeus the amount of Al-Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan hovers somewhere between 50-100 individuals.
- On June 22, President Obama outlined his strategy for Afghanistan, which included a drawdown of 10,000 troops by the end of this year and an additional 23,000, leaving over 70,000 troops in Afghanistan and tens of thousands of contractors.



Questions that Representatives, Senators and the President have not answered . . .

Locally, the elected officials repeat the refrain meeting after meeting that they “defer to the generals on the ground.” We have reminded them that our military has a civilian commander and chief for a reason and that Congressional oversight is part of their job. Supporting the troops involves paying close attention, asking tough questions, making sure there is a clear purpose for a military engagement. Still these questions remain unanswered.

- How long do we need to be in Afghanistan and what is our objective?
- Why do you think our troops should continue to fight & die for a corrupt Karzai government?
- Are you willing to continue to drive up the deficit to pay for the \$120+ billion a year cost of this war?

Rising Sentiment Against the War

- 56% of Americans say they want the US to bring the troops home from Afghanistan now.
- This past summer, the US Conference of Mayors passed a resolution to end the war in Afghanistan and bring the money home to fund communities 40 distinct religious groups have signed an “Aid, not war in Afghanistan” open letter to President Obama

A growing number of Conservatives are speaking out against the war including Ann Coulter, Grover Norquist, and Sarah Palin, as well as Richard Haas, President of the Council on Foreign Relations.

What You Can Do

- Call President Obama at 202-456-1111. Members of Congress at 202 224-3121 and ask the questions listed above.
- Join IJPC's Bring the War \$ Home Campaign. There are roles for individuals and groups. We can plug you into effective action. Call Kristen at 513.579-8547 August 22 – Join us at Rep. Chabot's Town Hall Meeting at 7pm. Purchase a \$5 T-shirt to wear that says “Tax Wall Street, End the Wars, Public Investment in Jobs.” RSVP 513.579.8547

September 11 Commemoration at Cincinnati Museum Center

A broad coalition of local organizations is planning a community-wide observance at the Cincinnati Museum Center this Sunday, September 11 as a way to remember the tragic attacks that impacted so many Americans ten years ago, unify our diverse community, and restore hope for our future by living up to our principles of democracy, freedom and

justice for all even in difficult times. The museum is open from 11am to 6pm. While there will be activities throughout the day, the main event will be held from 3pm to 4pm. Please plan to join us for this time of REMEMBRANCE, UNITY and HOPE. For more information, contact: 9.11cincinnati@gmail.com



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Get Involved with the People's Budget:

A Way Towards Economic Recovery, Shared Prosperity, and Fiscal Responsibility

Upset by the proposed cuts on the back of poor and working families being proffered in the budget debate? Get involved. Highlight the alternatives. IJPC has joined the New Priorities network to help connect the dots between different social justice movements and build momentum for public policy that reflects the needs and the values of the American people. There are many paths to fiscal balance, and only a path that fosters broadly shared economic growth will be sustainable in the long run. The People's Budget is the only budget that actually creates a surplus by 2021. It introduces common-sense reforms to strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, with-

out cutting benefits that Americans depend on. It also makes sure those who have benefited from America's economy pay their fair share to ensure its future strength. It ends wasteful defense spending, ends the wars, closes corporate loopholes, and ends the Bush tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. It actively invests in jobs creation, infrastructure, and education. More and more Greater Cincinnati groups and organizations are getting involved in IJPC's People's Budget Campaign. Communities United For Action, Contact Center, Cincinnati Interfaith Worker Center, American Federation for Government Employees Local 3840, Citizens for Global Solutions: Greater Cincinnati



Chapter, Vietnam Veterans for Peace, Spring Grove Village Working Families, the Vision of Hope Christian Life Community and other organizations have signed on. Are you part of a group that can endorse the effort? Contact Kristen at 513.579.8547 to find out how to get involved.
ijpc-cincinnati.org/news/support-peoples-budget