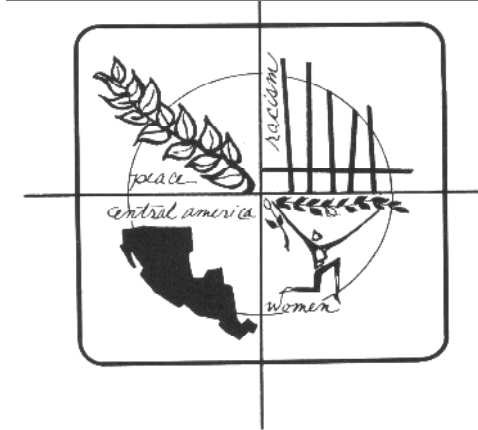


*Intercommunity Justice  
& Peace Center  
215 East 14th Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202*

Nonprofit  
Organization  
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Cincinnati, OH  
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# Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center Annual Report 2009-2010



We are a coalition of faith based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness. We address local, national and international concerns focusing on economic justice, women's issues, human rights, racial equality, peace and the environment. Since 1985 our goals continue to be...

- To deepen awareness of justice as integral, not optional, to our faith response.
- To network participating religious congregations and to collaborate with other concerned groups for stronger public witness and impact on justice.
- To broaden the base of participation in affecting structural injustices.

**It is this belief in a power larger than myself and other than myself, which allows me to venture into the unknown and even the unknowable**

*Maya Angelou*

2010 is an anniversary year – the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IJPC. Anniversaries are a time of remembering, reflecting and celebrating. They are a time of gratitude and renewal.

In 1985, IJPC began small with a membership that was mostly women religious. They formed study groups, analyzed facts, and reflected on the reality of injustice locally, nationally and globally. They named their priorities and set about making a difference. A Power was at work larger than the individuals involved.

Today that Power is in a broad community. IJPC is not just the 17 faith based groups that are our founders and sponsoring groups, we are the young people who serve as volunteers and interns and are now spread around the world. We are faithful friends who show up regularly to add their expertise to programs and projects and help with the everyday tasks. We are committee members, collaborators and friends united by passion for a particular cause or ideal. We are staff who dedicate talents and time to educating, advocating and organizing. We know that our collaboration goes beyond the human.

A reporter recently asked for a list of IJPC's successes and failures. Not a simple task! IJPC has educated thousands, publicly pointed out injustice, made some powers nervous, brought hope to people about to give up. We've walked, marched, talked, chanted, distributed fact sheets, planned, strategized, trained, sent out emails, made posters (forgive us trees) and stood in silence. Yes, this was IJPC – but also many, many more who shared a vision of peace.

Failures – we've had no true failures. Frustrations, setbacks, mistakes, yes. But we trust that our sincere efforts contribute to the pool of goodness that in the end, will triumph. The way that happens just may not be what we plan or expect.

25 years! IJPC looks somewhat different but our vision of a just and peaceful society remains similar and strong. We expect IJPC will be different 25 years from now. New opportunities and challenges are sure to come but IJPC senses a busy, productive, hopefilled future. Filled with gratitude, the strength of conviction, continued energy of members and friends, and a trust that the loving, powerful God of justice and peace guides us, IJPC moves into the next 25 years. The people of this world need us and we are ready to give our all. Together we venture into the unknown and the unknowable.



## Northern KY Justice And Peace Committee

The goal is to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and publicly witness. The committee addresses local, state, national and global situations with a special interest in how these issues impact the lives of the people of Northern Kentucky, especially the poor.

### Education

- Educational programs focused on immigration and alternative media. Materials appropriate for use with youth and adult groups were updated to be added to IJPC's website. Services available in Northern Kentucky were compiled. Know Your Rights and other materials were distributed through El Centro de la Divina Providencia.
- IJPC co-sponsored a series of 4 education programs on justice issues with Mother of God Parish in Covington.
- IJPC members in Northern Kentucky were regularly updated about the needs of the Cold Shelter and the progress made in jail ministry.
- Several members attended the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty Conference held this year in Louisville.

### Structural change

- Working with groups around the State a plan for a prayer and media response to executions was developed.
- Hundreds of information sheets on the cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to Kentucky tax payers were distributed during Oktoberfest



### Public Witness

- Staff and a member of the committee testified at a public hearing in Frankfort on the revised protocol for executions proposed by the Kentucky Justice Department.
- Five men on Kentucky's death row have exhausted their appeals. A letter writing campaign to Governor Steve Beshear was initiated asking for clemency in these cases.
- Committee members visited the men on Kentucky's death row in Eddyville.

# Death Penalty

## The Story of an Execution

The crimes Michael committed were in 1983. But that wasn't the beginning of his story. Born into a very controlled, religious household, the teen rebelled. He ran with the "wrong" crowd and got into trouble. The young man, filled with anger, killed. 27 years later the older, wiser Michael was executed by the State of Ohio.

IJPC came to know Michael through his mom, Marie. Marie was a faithful member of Families That Matter (FTM), IJPC's program for families who have or had members on death row. Marie, now deceased, shared her love of her son and the deep pain of a mother whose only child had done horrific acts and now faced death. FTM gave support to Marie and with her followed Michael's case. IJPC wrote Michael, visited Marie in the nursing home, received wonderful clever cards from Michael and Sr. Alice gave testimony at his clemency hearing. We learned he played music for the religious services in the prison, counseled other inmates and comforted them, wrote and illustrated materials to help inmates access the services they need, and developed a deep spiritual life.



Michael with Sr Alice Gerdeman, IJPC, and Renee Berlon, Ohioans to Stop Execution—May 4th Goodbye Day.

May 4 was "good bye" day. A week before an execution the condemned may have an extended visit with friends. Michael had his picture taken, shared stories, his cartoon art, and remembrances of happy days. He asked everyone to share their favorite parable and commented on each. We prayed his favorite prayer to St. Dismas, the good thief, and "Thoughts in Solitude" by Thomas Merton. We hugged him, cried, and said good bye and Michael thanked us for our support of him.

Nine days later, IJPC was outside the Ohio State Penitentiary in Lucasville, standing in prayer, as we do at each execution. The death process began at 10:00 and Michael died at 10:53. His last words included praying the rosary and expressing his sorrow for what he had done and asking forgiveness. Present with him were bishops, priests, friends and one of his victims. Michael died surrounded by prayer, caring and the forgiveness of one.

Michael Beuke's story is not usual. There are no "usual" stories on death row. In some way, IJPC was with ten men and their families this year. They are part of the reason we work for the abolition of the death penalty in Ohio and everywhere.

### Death Penalty : Education

- Working with OTSE (Ohioans To Stop Executions), IJPC members visited six community councils, NAACP leadership, numerous universities, churches and temples, youth and community groups to share facts and stories and to answer questions.
- Trainings were held for Families That Matter (FTM) members to give them information and skills to use in advocating for their loved one and to work against the death penalty.
- IJPC staff and FTM members gave a workshop at the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty sharing the FTM model of organizing with attendees from around the country.
- Staff and FTM leadership attended a week-long organizing for social change training with Mid West Academy.

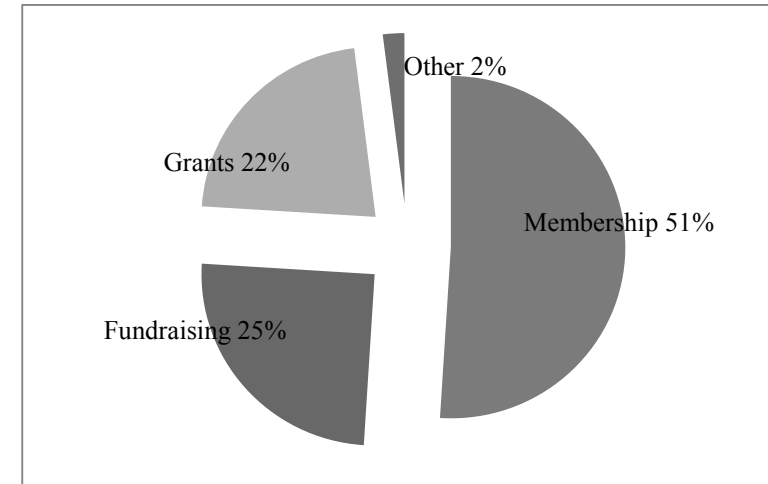
### Death Penalty : Structural Change

#### Families That Matter: Working with families who have loved ones on death row

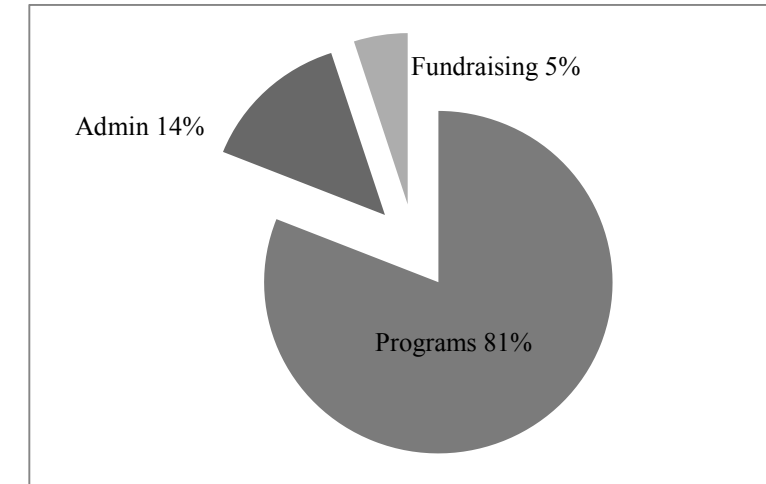
- Strategy sessions enabled family members of death row residents to find effective ways to challenge the system.
- Working with OTSE, lawyers, and media professionals, the problems with Ohio's execution protocol in individual cases were made public increasing skepticism about capital punishment.
- IJPC staff testified before the clemency board. One man had his death sentence commuted and another has a stay. Committee members held a write-a-thon to inform the governor and other public officials of their opposition to the death penalty.
- On line and paper petitions were circulated in every case. Thousands of signatures were collected and many phone calls made.
- IJPC staff met with families of murder victims to establish or strengthen collaboration.

## 2009-2010 Financial Report

### Income 2009-2010



### Expenses 2009-2010



### MEMBER GROUPS

#### Founding Sponsors

Sisters of Charity  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

#### Sponsors

Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Ursulines of Cincinnati  
Ursulines of Brown County  
Anawim Community  
Glenmary Home Missioners  
Sisters of Divine Providence  
Institute of Secular Missionaries  
Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship  
Franciscans, St. John the Baptist Province  
Comboni Missionaries  
New Jerusalem Community  
Sisters of Notre Dame—Covington

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Barb Gutting  
Steve Herbold  
Patricia Homan, OSU  
Ruth Kettman, CSJ  
Joan Krimm, SNDdeN  
Monica McGloin, OP  
Gail Miller  
Mary Lea Paolucci, SND  
Marge Wissman, OSF

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Dave Johnson  
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Marge Wissman, OSF

### STAFF

Kristen Barker  
Nick Caprino  
Alice Gerdeman, CDP  
Sara Haines  
Eunice Timoney Ravenna

# Immigration

*Educating individuals on the truths about immigration and providing advocacy to immigrants*

**IJPC's Immigration Program has as its long term goal the passage of Comprehensive Immigration Reform Legislation that protects the human rights of immigrants in the U.S. IJPC 1) collaborates with other human rights groups toward policy change, 2) educates about immigration issues, 3) provides emergency assistance to immigrant families, and 4) facilitates the reunification of immigrant families.**

## Immigration : Education

- IJPC staff organized or were part of educational programs around immigration issues that reached students, parishes, and community groups.
- A workshop for agencies and individuals working with immigrants drew 55 participants from 7 agencies.
- Movies, immigrant speakers and IJPC-developed games and activities made facts and experiences real for a variety of audiences.

## Immigration : Public Witness

- Worked with Reform Immigration For America, I.A.M. (Immigration Advocacy Movement), and inter-faith groups
- IJPC helped plan, publicize and members participated in two rallies and a prayer service about immigrant rights.

### *Emergency Assistance*

*Through the generosity of IJPC members and friends, 37 families received financial assistance to pay for rent, utilities, legal fees and other emergency needs and 96 families attended the joyful Christmas celebration.*

## Immigration: Structural Change

- *Friends of Voinovich*, initiated by IJPC, involved 15 communities of women religious. Members sent regular communication to Senator Voinovich urging him to support immigration reform legislation.
- IJPC met with staff from Senator Brown's office about legislative reform and with I.C.E. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in an effort to understand their policies.
- On the state level, IJPC met with Representative Denise Driehaus. Locally Sheriff Simon Leis and Police Chief Streicher were challenged to educate their officers about the real situations of immigrants and human rights concerns.
- Committee members continued to accompany immigrants to court.

**We organize  
and call attention to  
violation of rights**

## Death Penalty Public Witness

- Sadly ten men were executed by the State of Ohio this year. Prior to each, IJPC organized a time of prayer for the executed, their families, victims of murder, their families, public officials and prison staff. IJPC was present outside the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at the time of each execution in prayer and in witnessing to opposition to the killing. Media releases and interviews made IJPC's positions available to the general public.

*Educating the public on the injustices of the death penalty and working with those affected towards abolition*

**IJPC's program goal is to abolish the death penalty. There are three aspects to the anti-death penalty work: public education, working with the family members of death row inmates, and working with murder victims' family members. IJPC works cooperatively with OTSE and other anti-death penalty groups.**

# Peace and Nonviolence

## Before You Enlist Education

IJPC's training and outreach to volunteers for our Adopt-A-School Program is reaping benefits. A prime example is the ownership that a Mt. Healthy volunteer showed when she initiated outreach to Mt. Healthy High School. Volunteers met with the principal, the Parent Advisory Council, various students, teachers, and guidance counselors and gained support. As a result our materials, which **provide information for making a more informed decision about enlistment and possible options for education and employment after high school**, are in the hands of guidance counselors and in their library. There is a growing awareness of the need for non-military voices to be heard by the student body. We have been invited to have a presence at college nights, scheduling nights, and other key events in the upcoming school year as well class presentations.

- Volunteers participated in our "Countering the Influence of Military Recruiters Workshop" and are involved with the Adopt-A-School Program.
- Members of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship were trained and carried the program into Newport High School and Holmes High School.
- Members of Community Friends Meeting were trained and are ready to work with a large, heavily recruited High School this year.
- Four high schools were part of Before You Enlist, BYE this year. Each was selected based on the likelihood that students would be heavily recruited and the school districts lacked funding for alternative materials.

The note was written in the English of a person not comfortable with the language.

*Dear Sister in the Church:*

*I am very grateful to you all because I am in economic troubles right now and your help is a great blessing to me. I pray to the Lord to give you all the many blessings He has for every one of you. I have finally two hands. If you need help with my hands, just let me know.*

*With a lot of spiritual love and grateful to God and you all  
Yours, Daniel*

Daniel had been hurt at work. His employer, suspecting that Daniel did not have proper documents, refused to pay for medical expenses or even to give him some of the money he had earned before the accident. His family, including two children, needed help to challenge the employer, find work, and immediately with their Duke Energy bill.

Daniel was helped by many people. IJPC played a small but important role. We could support. We could give the family a Kroger card to buy food and, through our Emergency Fund for Immigrant Families, we could pay the utility bill and keep the family in their home.

IJPC's Immigration Program educates about immigration law and the need for reform. We collaborate with many groups and individuals to meet the needs of families and individuals. We organize and call attention to violation of rights. Perhaps, most importantly we give hope and show compassion to our immigrant friends.

## Ending the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq – Structural Change

Peace Committee has been working hard to shine a light on the war in Afghanistan and the need to end it.

- Held a teach-in at XU, an Afghanistan Poetry Night at Sitwells, and encouraged community viewings of the film "Rethink Afghanistan: A Way Forward".
- Connected the dots between war spending and economic shortfalls here at home.
- Held Healthcare Not Warfare rallies, launched a petition drive, visited Senator Brown's and Senator Voinovich's office and sponsored monthly visits with Rep. Driehaus's aides about ending the war in Afghanistan and investing in jobs here at home.
- Made the human cost of the war real by cosponsoring events for Peggy Logue, Marine mom, to share her personal experience and book "Skin in the Game: Journey of a Mother and Her Marine Son".
- Kept peace and the need to end violence and war in the forefront via weekly Women in Black vigils, monthly Iraq and Afghanistan vigils, and monthly peace meetings where we work on political organizing for peace, study of the issues, as well as our own continued skill-building to be peacemakers.

## Days of Dialogue: Structural Change / Education

How big of an issue is racism today? What's been your personal experience with racism? Will racism always be with us? Do you believe race relations in this country can and will improve? These were some of the issues that teens grappled with during IJPC's three part dialogue series Dismantling Racism. Youth from public and private schools, of different races and economic backgrounds came together. Within safe space, they respectfully and openly shared thoughts and feelings spanning the gamut from viewing racism as ubiquitous, unimportant, and an omnipresent enduring part of life to youth who shared the pain of personal experiences of racism. The importance of standing up to it and examples of standing up against racism and the belief that things are evolving in a positive direction emerged. One youth asked the group to imagine having this same gathering 150 years ago. He suggested that first off, it would have been impossible for us to have this conversation together and, secondly that it likely would have been inconceivable to most that slavery would end. Youth spoke from their heart, wrestled with the challenges, deeply listened to one another. The depth of conversation, the honesty, and openness was inspiring. It was a memorable series and we are grateful to St. Vivian's parish for inviting IJPC to partner with them. The main coordinator for this series had recently attended IJPC's Day of Dialogue Facilitator Training and wanted to take it farther. Like many others, her appreciation of the process led her to adapt and expand it. Truly, the seeds have been planted

- Four Days of Dialogue were held. Topics included: "Northern Kentucky—Culture of Inclusion" done in partnership with Northern Kentucky Forum, "How Local Government in Kenton County Can Work Better Together" bringing together 60 elected officials, "Capitalism A Love Story" Based on Michael Moore's documentary, and the "Dismantling Racism" series with young people.
- A Day of Dialogue steering committee was initiated bringing expertise to trainings, facilitation, topic selection and public relations.
- Two facilitation trainings were held assuring quality small group experiences at Days of Dialogue.



*Racism Dialogue Series for Youth ~  
March 2010  
Pictured: Morgan Miller, XU intern*

## Ushering in a Culture of Peace : Public Witness

The angry, violent tenor of the healthcare townhalls provided an opportunity for Peace Team members to test their non violent intervention skills. One member reports.

A few minutes into the town hall the heckling began. Our experiences were interesting. Originally, there were six people in the row behind me shouting such things as "Obamacare is going to kill you," "We have the best healthcare in the world," "Liars," "Tort Reform," "I won't pay for your healthcare" and so on. When the shouting became louder, more constant and distracting I made a decision that engaging them would probably be less distracting for the majority of people in the audience. I began turning around, periodically paraphrasing and periodically asking them questions such as "You sound really frightened about this healthcare reform possibility. What scares you . . ." The woman immediately behind me said things like "You are so naïve," "you don't have a brain cell in your head," "We don't even breathe the same air. I can't talk to you." Others said angrily and insistently, "The show is in front. Turn around."

### I took a breath and kept at it.

I took a breath and kept at it. The mocking of me continued. Eventually, a man responded to my question about what he wanted to see in terms of our health care. When I paraphrased his answer, he said "Exactly." His expression softened, he lowered his voice and stopped shouting. After a while similar conversations took place with three of the others. At the end, one of the former loud and angry detractors behind me, smiled, shook my hand, and wished me luck with my daughter. The three others folks accompanying me reported similar experiences with hecklers in their vicinity. What then, might be possible with a much larger contingent of trained peace team members?

## Structural Change: IJPC has trained peace team members and equipped people with skills to defuse violence-

- Expanding the diversity of the Peace Team by offering a Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training for 29 people
- Teaming up with Ceasefire Cincinnati to do Bullying training with Stop the Violence Youth Groups
- Offering a series about resolving conflicts and building community for adults with developmental disabilities.



*IJPC Staff leads Non Violent Training*

## *Building up a community where people resolve conflicts nonviolently and tearing down unjust structures by*

- **Working to increase the peacemaking skills in our community through the nonviolence training program and long term goal of creation of a Cincinnati peace team**
- **Designing opportunities to dialogue on polarizing issues in a respectful, collaborative way that encourages listening to others with different opinions**
- **Providing school counselors, students and parents with materials to help young people make informed decisions around military service.**
- **Educating, building awareness, and organizing to end war in Iraq & Afghanistan, heal the wounds of war, and prevent war**

As IJPC looks to the future we want to better serve both our issues and our members in the next 25 years—therefore we used our 25th anniversary year as a time to update our systems of communication so as to bring you the most important, timely facts and information regarding our issues with the most user friendly and convenient tools we could find—internally that meant much training and software upgrading, externally that became our beautiful new web site—

*please visit us at [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org)*

*IJPC would not exist without our members and volunteers. This past year IJPC enjoyed the expertise of over 4500 hours of volunteers service in our office—this does not account for the thousands of hours spent by volunteers on issue committees and at events. All we can say is **THANK YOU!***