



# issues

*A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center*

**2010** is an anniversary year – the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IJPC. Anniversaries are a time of remembering, reflecting and celebrating. IJPC plans to do all of this.

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. IJPC today is a broad community. We're 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 are thousands!

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 a loving 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 – right after the celebration!

**SUMMER  
2010**



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*Join us to Celebrate 25 years of  
Educating, Advocating and Organizing for Peace and Justice  
Saturday September 25th, 6 pm—9pm; tickets \$25-\$50 sliding scale  
At Purcell Marian High School  
Dinner, Entertainment and Silent Auction*

**Save the date for all of our Anniversary Celebrations**

**\*Oct 18th – FREE – Celebrate Organizing Victories**

**at our Movie and Discussion Night**

**\*Nov 11th 7pm Mercy Center – FREE**

**Help us look to the Future at the IJPC Annual Meeting**

## Goodbye and Thanks to IJPC! ..... By Nick Caprino

It is hard to believe eleven months have passed since I started my AmeriCorps service in September of 2009. IJPC has presented me with more opportunities, challenges, and chances to grow than I would have gained almost anywhere else. Throughout my time here I have learned about the essence of peace and social justice and the importance of advocacy. The list of skills I have gained in my time at IJPC is endless, but the most important piece I have gained this year is the piece that holds everything together: the people. The immeasurable amount of knowledge that IJPC holds in regards to peace and justice is useless without the people to implement it, and not just any people. To effectively organize, educate, and advocate you need special kind of people that understand the need to sacrifice to really make a difference and the people that can simultaneously serve as a teacher and student. I have encountered more of

these types of people at IJPC than I thought I ever could in a lifetime. I always looked forward to coming to the office at Peaslee Neighborhood Center in the morning where I would be greeted by an unbelievably talented, experienced, and self-sacrificing IJPC staff. Throughout my time I have been constantly surrounded by hardworking volunteers and interns who have given their time in the name of IJPC's mission. On top of this, IJPC always has smiling faces coming through the door, whether for a committee meeting, or just to say hi and chat. All of these people demonstrated the multitude of ways one can be caring and kind. From everyone associated with IJPC I learned how much hard work it takes to fight for peace and justice, but at the same time, how simple and obvious it is to live a life defined by caring for others.

I was extremely lucky to come to IJPC during the 25th Anniversary year. I was not only shown the result of 25 years of hard work, but also the story that brought IJPC to this point. Throughout 25 years, programs, causes, and strategies have changed, but the people and the mission have not. It is very rare that someone gets to be a part of an organization with such a strong foundation.

Thank you to all the IJPC members, volunteers, committee members, and program participants. Your commitment and various talents make IJPC and the Cincinnati community better. Most importantly, thank you to the IJPC staff. You give me and Cincinnati an example of how good people can really be.

You may have noted all of our recent technological advances—To say we have had a paradigm shift would be too easy – but to say we have taken every process, procedure and tool we ever relied on and turned it on its head, analyzed its capacity and developed more technologically advanced sustainable replacements for each one would be a bit more accurate. And of course this was done while not only continuing programs, but also advancing and developing programs. The learning curve for staff was great, the hours importing information was overwhelming, the feeling of success when complete was unimaginable. Thanks to a \$15,000 Salesforce Foundation grant, amazingly talented volunteers, a very generous web developer—ThinkShout, we have leapt into the future at IJPC. One can imagine since we are only a 2 ¼ full time staff equivalent [and our amazing Americorps] that this would have taken not only our full attention but also an inordinate amount of time. True enough. But when IJPC says we rely on volunteers – we do not lie. This summer IJPC enjoyed about 125 hours of volunteer/intern time each week – that's about 1875 hours for the summer to date and counting. We were so blessed with eager, talented, workaholic volunteers – we were challenged to chart out exactly when each could attend since we have a limited amount of space and computers available.

What a happy challenge to face. We are extremely grateful for the awesome dedication of: Mayra Alza, Daniel Hagerstrand and Kaitlyn Blakemore of University of Cincinnati; Ebony Butts of Mount St Joseph College; Mitchell Clifford and Joe Gallagher of Clark Montessori; Linda Davis; Catherine McCafferty of Xavier University; and Anne Wessell of Church of the Brethren Volunteers. It is notable – these were our office based interns, this list does not account for the many volunteers who support IJPC through committee work and/or at our events. We are very fortunate!

**THANK YOU ALL!**

### *Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center*

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**IMMIGRATION UPDATE** ..... There is no question reform legislation governing immigration is needed in our country. The system is broken and must be fixed. Thousands of hardworking immigrant families live in fear that a family member may be deported. The state of Arizona passed a law (SB 1070) that, among other things, requires police officers to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws and requires immigrants to prove that they were authorized to be in the country or risk state charges. Judge Susan Bolton of the Federal District Court issued an injunction stopping the most offensive provisions of the law from going into effect. The State of Arizona has appealed Judge Bolton's ruling. This represented a positive step but will not stop other states from adopting similar legislative action or cities and counties from trying to pass anti-immigrant resolutions. We need to be on the alert.

Immigration reform is a politically hot issue. Opponents to immigration reform are trying new tactics that are often based on fear and discrimination. One especially draconian proposal favors the repeal of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution thereby withholding US citizenship for children born in this country who do not have at least one parent who is a legal resident. Proponents of ideas such as this often make broad general statements that exaggerate or ignore the truth. Spread by unreliable sources, these ideas enter people's minds, feed fear and make genuine reform more difficult.

### So, what can we do?

- 1) Educate yourself. Question what you hear and question the source. The IJPC website has good, easy to read materials.
- 2) Be alert as to what is happening in your city, county and state. When anti-immigrant legislation or resolutions are introduced let those who represent you know your opinion and back that opinion up with the facts. Make immigration issues one of your considerations in the November elections
- 3) Get to know an immigrant family. Attend a Spanish language event or volunteer with a group that serves immigrants.
- 4) Educate others. Suggest that your church, civic organization, or a group of friends study the topic. IJPC's *Loving Your Immigrant Neighbor* Program can be modified to meet the needs of nearly every group.

**On September 16, IJPC's Northern Kentucky Committee is sponsoring an evening program that showcases a variety of ideas that can be used to educate on the immigration issue. It will be held at Madison Avenue Christian Church, 1530 Madison Ave, Covington from 7:00-9:00 PM. People living on both sides of the Ohio River are invited. Reserve your space by calling IJPC at 513-579-8547. Flier available on IJPC website!**

### Adopt A School WANTS YOU!!



Concerned about the future of our young people? Uneasy about the increased presence of military recruiters in the schools? Consider becoming an Adopt-a-School volunteer. We seek to empower students

to make informed choices about Life After High School. We have excellent, unbiased packets about things to consider before enlisting as well as other options for one's future. Volunteers have had positive experiences and a meaningful impact on students and school staff. We offer a helpful training and substantial support to volunteers. We are looking for teams (2 or more people) to adopt one of the area schools that is heavily recruited by the Army. Interested? Call Kristen at 513-579-8547 to get involved.

### Nonviolence Training – Peace Team Expanding!

How would I characterize Greater Cincinnati's desire to be peacemakers? Very high!! The last two public trainings IJPC has offered have handily exceeded our 20 person "maximum". Feedback has been very positive. Some participants have described daily application of the techniques and tools offered during the training with co-workers, neighbors, and family.



Partnering with Ceasefire Cincinnati on smaller trainings has also been a lot of fun. Together we are building up a reservoir of people with skills to de-escalate conflicts and potentially violent situations. Many of the trainees have agreed to be part of a database of peace team members willing to be contacted to help maintain a peaceful presence during potentially volatile situations such as health care town halls, rallies with counter demonstrators, hate groups coming to town, etc.

**Want to refresh your peacemaking skills?** During the monthly Peace Committee meeting [3rd Wed of the month] we devote half an hour to peace skills-building. The meeting is at 7pm at Peaslee Neighborhood Center (215 East 14th St).

**Concerned about a situation or event** and would like the peaceful presence of a peace team? Contact Kristen at 513.579.8547

**The efforts of the Muslim community in Northern Kentucky to build a mosque in Florence has stirred some anti Muslim comments. Interested in sending a message of best wishes and blessings during this holy season of Ramadan?**

Notes can be mailed to Islamic Center of Northern KY, 8142 Mall Rd., Florence, KY 41042

## At Look at Race .. with local Youth

Reflection by Ebony Butts,

Mount St Joseph College summer intern



Last month Kristen invited me to participate in the Mid-West Boys And Girls Club Weekend Extravaganza to do a dialogue on Racism on July 9<sup>th</sup> at Xavier University. I was both excited and nervous—Kristen and I braved the session together. I say “braved” because we were unaware of the students

ages. We get there and I started feeling pretty hopeful since they are in high-school. I knew this was going to be an interesting day. We had time to host two sessions. We opened each session with a game Kristen calls “train-wreck” which is like musical chairs. The students asked each other an array of questions from “If you like vanilla ice-cream then stand up to “If you prefer to be called African American verses Black?” and you had to race to a chair or be the one to ask the next question. We used the game as an icebreaker for the students. Kristen and I also played. Then we showed them a Saturday Night Live segment featuring rapper/actress Queen Latifah. The segment was an advertisement for “Racial Tension Migraine” medication. The students laughed.

Then we had the students play a game where they were to look at pictures and determine the person in the photo’s race by just looking at the picture. I had played this game and it wasn’t easy! I was excited to see how the students would do. Five major ethnicities were represented in the game: American Indian, Latino, African American, Caucasian, and Asian. The groups in both sessions had a difficult time pairing the people with their ethnicity, and I think this shocked them. This forced the students to see how wrong people can be when judging someone’s race by just looking at them. Then we had the student stand on a line from 0 (that you have seen little or no racism) to 10 (that you have either experienced or seen lots of racism). And it was my turn to be shocked.

The groups’ opinions had changed dramatically in both sessions. Our first group, who were high-school students from the Northern Kentucky area, had experienced some form of racism or seen it on a regular basis. The students in the second session were high-school student from the southern part of Ohio and had experienced very little racism. One thing that stood out for me was a discussion about racial slurs. Many students said they weren’t offended very often because they use them among themselves and their friends use them also. “It’s like nigga (meaning like my friend) not like nigger (calling someone a racial slur).” one of the student told me. So I asked him, if I drop the “id” from stupid is that not me still calling you stupid? He just smiled and said “Nope, you still calling me stupid.” However a number were ready to fight people for use of racial slurs.

Kristen closed by talking about non-violent responses and some other cool ways to avoid people’s ignorance. Kristen and I both thought the sessions went extremely well but would have liked for both groups to meet each other and see how much they actually thought alike.

## IJPC Screens Film about Apartheid as part of Anniversary Celebration Series

On Monday , October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Xavier, IJPC will host a special screening of *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?*, a powerful new documentary series about the global citizen’s movement that defied South Africa’s apartheid regime.

*Have You Heard from Johannesburg?* is a seven-part series by acclaimed filmmaker Connie Field that reveals how ordinary people, both in South Africa and internationally, helped challenge and end the world’s most brutally repressive regimes. IJPC will screen *The Bottom Line*, the segment of the series which focuses on the international divestment movement that forced major corporations such as Polaroid, Shell, Barclay’s and General Motors to stop conducting business in South Africa and thereby stop enabling the South African government.

Our screening of *The Bottom Line* aims to share the connections that can be made between the divestment movement and IJPC’s current topics of interest and action—the death penalty, immigration and peace. Our persistent work with these issues most certainly ties into one of *The Bottom Line*’s most powerful messages: “For Americans who are so used to instant success, it was something that we had to learn that we needed to have the endurance of the long distance runner.”

- After the film screening, we will have small group discussions that will use the film as a springboard to discuss the hopefulness within the anti-death penalty, immigration and peace movements. Participants will be able to choose from several sessions focused on progress and possibility:
- *Ending the Death Penalty*
- *Improving Immigrant Rights in the Tri-State*
- *Ending the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan*
- *Preventing Military Recruiter Abuses in Schools*
- *Building Peaceful Alternatives- Days of Dialogue and the Cincinnati Peace Team*

Please call (513) 579-8547 for questions or more information. We hope you join us for this inspiring night!



Catherine McCafferty,  
Reflects on execution—  
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## Why do we kill people who kill people to show that killing people is wrong?

Catherine McCafferty, Xavier University Summer Service Intern

The weather matched the mood on the morning of William Garner's execution.

As the Xavier Summer Service intern to IJPC, I had the opportunity to accompany Sr. Alice to Lucasville for Garner's execution vigil on the morning of Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. It was my first visit to a prison alone, much less to one where an execution was taking place.

The death penalty has been and continues to be one of the most heart wrenching and conflicting moral issues I have ever faced. In high school, my Morality teacher emphasized that the Catechism states that it is perfectly acceptable to support the death penalty, while my Justice Service teacher showed us *Dead Man Walking*. While I understood that it was a difficult subject, I did not really question the death penalty until two years ago, when as a freshman at Xavier, my ConneXions service group participated in a death penalty workshop at IJPC. As I role played the victim's mother, who advocated against the death penalty, and then acted as a jury member, I began to realize that there was no way I would ever want to have to make that decision, much less claim the responsibility for voting to have someone killed. After this experience, I began talking (and arguing) with family and friends about the morality of the death penalty. While I continued to hold that "Two wrongs don't make a right," I still went back and forth, finding valid reasons to sympathize with both sides of the issue.

I knew that working at IJPC this summer would require me to face the issue head on. It was intimidating when the moment finally came, but as I wrote in my journal during the drive to Lucasville that morning, "I feel like I made a promise, to myself and to IJPC, during my interview. A promise to experience and take in as much as possible. I need to do this because this is what I'm meant to learn and take from and carry with me from here on out."

Besides for the harsh and surreal fact that William Garner was purposely being killed just yards away from where I stood, what hit me most that morning was the weather. When we arrived at Lucasville, the increasingly ominous feeling was matched by the overcast sky, the gusts of wind and the lightning in the distance. As the execution time drew closer and closer, the sky became the color of charcoal, and literally just moments after Sr. Alice announced, "It is now ten o'clock," the rain began to fall. It poured and poured for forty-five minutes, and in my opinion at least, was heaviest around 10:20 or 10:30, about the time when Garner was actually injected. By the time the families, press and justice officials began to leave the death house, the rain was gradually letting up. The timing was too perfect, and I could not help but think that heaven was crying with us at the heartache of the situation.

The emotions and events of that morning stay in my mind and continue to unsettle me; I hope that they will for a long time. Garner's crime was horrible, there is no doubt about it. But I still struggle to see how creating more violence and adding more pain to everyone affected by his actions makes up for them. I still struggle to comprehend how humanity can be so depraved. I still struggle to articulate well to those who approve of the death penalty why that bad feeling in my gut tells me that execution is not the solution. Yet as my time at IJPC comes to a close, I know that I'm more educated and more inspired to continue grappling with this issue. In the months ahead, as Ohio continues to execute at an alarming rate, I hope to continue learning about and being aware of what's going on behind the closed doors of the justice system, and that in sharing my experiences this summer, I can inspire my peers to do so as well.

# Death Penalty Bad News and Good News

Four men have been executed in Kentucky in the last 53 years. Four men could be executed before the end of 2010. Three of them (Ralph Baze, Robert Foley, and Gregory Wilson) have run out of appeals and Shawn Windsor is trying to ask that no appeals be filed for him. Attorney General Jack Conway has asked that execution dates be set for Baze, Foley and Wilson.

**Darryl Durr was executed by Ohio on April 20, 2010**

**Michael Bueke was executed by Ohio on May 13, 2010**

**William Garner was executed by Ohio on July 13, 2010**

**Roderick Davie was executed by Ohio on August 10, 2010**

The following execution dates are set in Ohio: Kevin Keith - Sept. 15, Michael Benge - Oct. 6, Sidney Cornwell - Nov. 16, Frank Spisak - Feb. 17, Johnnie Baston - March 10, 2011.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS—Justice Paul Pfeifer, one of the 3 lawmakers who wrote the 1981 law bringing the death penalty back to Ohio, has called for a review of all death penalty cases. In a May interview with the Columbus Dispatch, Justice Pfeiffer suggested that those who wind up on Ohio's death row are often not those the law was meant to punish. He stated his belief that older cases, if they were tried now, would not have resulted in the death penalty.

The death sentence of Richard Nields was commuted to life without the possibility of parole by Governor Ted Strickland.

Nicole Diar, one of two women on Ohio's Death Row, had her death sentence vacated.

Nearly 12,000 people have signed a petition asking Governor Strickland to commute the death sentence of Kevin Keith. There is overwhelming evidence of innocence in this case.

***Go to the IJPC website to download a paper petition or sign on line [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org)***

# Dialogue Scene

**Day of Dialogue** Intercommunity  
Justice & Peace  
Center

## What we do...

Provide stimulating and safe environment for exploring and discussing differing viewpoints on critical topics.

## How we do it...

With knowledgeable speakers, facilitated small groups and an emphasis on reflective listening.

## Why we do it...

To improve discourse and civility on issues important to the Greater Cincinnati community. To increase connection, respect, and understanding.

## Upcoming Important Events

### Dialogue Facilitator Training

Join us for an interactive dialogue facilitator training on Saturday, September 18th from 9am-12:30pm at the Peaslee, Neighborhood Center 215 E. 14th St., Cincinnati. It will be a great experience for enhancing facilitation skills, active listening skills, and constructive inquiry skills that can be used for IJPC dialogues, in the classroom, in the home, and in the community. RSVP to Kristen at 513.579.8547

### Afghanistan—Leave Now or Stay?

Join us on Sunday, October 10 from 2-4:30pm to listen to others and explore your thoughts on this important issue that affects all of us as Americans. Check our website [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org) for details as the dialogue approaches. RSVP to Kristen at 513.579.8547.

### A Church in Pain: Pathways to Healing

The intent in offering this dialogue is to create a safe, respectful place for personal sharing of tensions in the Catholic Church, encourage healing and reconciliation, and enhance skills of respectful listening and genuine questioning. Join together on November 15th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Conaton Board Room in Schmidt Hall at Xavier. Bellarmine Parish and Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice are sponsoring the event. IJPC will provide facilitation. Check our website [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org) for details as the dialogue approaches. RSVP to Kristen at 513-579-8547.

## Kenton County Officials Value Dialogue on Local Governance

The Northern Kentucky Forum invited IJPC to help design and facilitate a dialogue for elected officials, candidates, and city administrators in Kenton County on April 24th entitled "How Kenton County Local Governments Can Work Better Together." The event was well received. One participant wrote in an email to the organizing team the next day, "It was a consensus opinion that this was potentially one of the most valuable programs held in this county in a long time. The challenge is for those of us that participated to follow up on our commitments."

The Northern Kentucky Forum has just released a report to the community about the ideas generated during the dialogue. The 15 page document can be found at [civicengagement.nku.edu](http://civicengagement.nku.edu). One of the ideas generated at the dialogue, the idea of adding a non-voting "Cities" representative (eg. a Mayor) to the Kenton County Fiscal Court was introduced at a recent meeting of the Court.

Kevin Keith has been on death row in Ohio for 16 years despite overwhelming evidence that he could be innocent. He is scheduled for execution on September 15.

Keith's conviction was based on eyewitness testimony, which is notorious for its unreliability. He has an alibi affirmed by four people and new evidence has emerged implicating another suspect.



**We need to stop this execution before its too late**

SIGN A PETITION AT >>>>>> [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org)

**Check out our new web site**

**[ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org)**

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# Afghanistan

## Afghanistan



### Critical indicators about the war in Afghanistan:

- **NATO is failing to win hearts and minds.** According to a poll released July 16th by the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS) think tank most people in Taliban heartlands view foreign troops negatively and believe the Taliban should join the government. The poll of Afghans in the two areas found:-- 75 percent believe foreigners disrespect their religion and traditions, 74 percent believe working with foreign forces is wrong, 68 percent believe NATO forces do not protect them, 65 percent believe the Taliban and its leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, should join the Afghan government. Seventy percent said recent military actions in their area were bad for the Afghan people and 59 percent opposed a new military offensive being built up by NATO forces in Kandahar. (Reuters, July 17, 2010 "NATO is failing to win hearts and minds")
- **Civilian deaths have increased since the US troop surge.** "In terms of insecurity, 2010 has been the worst year since the demise of the Taliban regime in late 2001," said the Afghanistan Rights Monitor (ARM) in its mid year report "Civilians Casualties of Conflict." The report says the policy of intensifying operations against the Taliban has not disrupted or defeated the insurgents. Instead, "the insurgency has become more resilient, multi-structured and deadly". About 1,074 civilians were killed and more than 1,500 injured in war-related incidents in the first six months of 2010, compared with 1,059 killed in the same period last year.

### By the Numbers:

- 38,655 – number of U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan ([icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org))
- 1223 - number of US Soldiers who have died in Afghanistan ([icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org))
- 58% - Americans who say that war in Afghanistan is a lost cause (*Washington Post*, July 15 "Americans Disapproving of Obama May Enable Republicans")
- Over \$1 trillion dollars - the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 (*National Priorities project*)
- \$1 million –the amount the U.S. spends per troop per year on the ground in Afghanistan (*Department of Defense*)
- \$981 million-amount Cincinnati taxpayers have paid on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001(*National Priorities Project*)
- \$50.4 million—amount of projected budget deficit for the City of Cincinnati (*WLWT August 8, 2010*)
- 450 -people in Cincinnati Public Schools may be laid off because of a growing budget deficit. (*Local 12 July 7,2010*)

### End the War in Afghanistan and Fund Jobs at Home!

For the past several months, IJPC has been visiting Rep. Steve Driehaus' Cincinnati office to let him know the need to end the war in Afghanistan and support the creation of local jobs. Every third Wednesday at lunch we visit to present Driehaus' aids with new information about the destruction of lives and resources in Afghanistan, and the rising unemployment nationally and locally.

On IJPC's visits, Rep. Driehaus's aides often ask us why they aren't hearing much about the war from their constituents. We want to show Rep. Driehaus that US citizens, particularly Cincinnatians, want us out of Afghanistan and to begin focusing on building local jobs. **Can you join us for the lunch time visit?** Let Kristen know by calling 513.579.8547. If not, there are lots of other ways you can get involved. Next month, and for months to come, we will present Rep. Driehaus' office with **petitions** in support to END THE WARS AND FUND JOBS AT HOME. Please download it from our website [ijpc-cincinnati.org](http://ijpc-cincinnati.org), print it off, gather signatures, and send it back to IJPC. We must show our Representatives that we do care about this war and want it to end!

**Text of Petition:** "After 9 years of U.S. war in Afghanistan, violence and instability still prevail. It's not working. As General Barry McCaffrey says, "We can't shoot our way out of Afghanistan." Congress should insist on a new U.S. policy. The problems facing Afghan society are economic, social, and political in nature and require economic, social, and political solutions. Meanwhile, with the newest war spending bill, taxpayers in Cincinnati have paid \$1 billion dollars since 2001 on these wars. Cincinnatians are struggling as unemployment and underemployment are at an all-time high and the city budget is experiencing serious cut-backs. How many jobs could be created by redirecting this taxpayer money back home? We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge CONGRESS to act now to END THE WARS & FUND JOBS AT HOME."

### Other Actions you can take -

- Join the Iraq and Afghanistan Moratorium Peace Vigils the Third Friday of the month from 4:30-5:30pm (see Calendar of Events)
- Add your wisdom to a Peace Committee Meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Peaslee
- Stand with Women in Black—Central Parkway and Vine St—4:30-5:50pm every Monday—beginning September 13th.

**Intercommunity Justice  
& Peace Center**  
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## **The Death of *Families That Matter* Member Michael Beuke ... A Reflection**

I'd like to ask you to do a last favor for me. Please pray everyday for my victims." Michael Bueke, executed by the State of Ohio on May 13, 2010, wrote these words to friend and anti-death penalty activist several days before his execution. Michael's execution was the fifth in Ohio this year.

Michael's story isn't typical but no death row story is. Michael's mom and dad were devout Catholics with troubled lives. Michael, an only child, grew to be angry and eventually killed one man, severely injured another. A third victim survived with less serious injuries. In prison, Michael came back to his faith and worked to convert others. He played the organ at church services, illustrated a manual that explained to prisoners with limited reading skills how to access mental health services, counseled others on death row and shared precious stamps and letter paper with them. He developed a strong devotion to St. Dismas, the good thief. He was a model prisoner. Michael's execution took a long time since he prayed the entire rosary when asked for his last words.

Michael's mother was a member of Families That Matter (FTM), a group for people who have or had family members on death row. Michael served on the Board. Organized by the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, FTM is the only group of its type in the United States and perhaps the world. Members meet to learn how to advocate for their son, brother, nephew, etc who is on death row, work with other to change the laws so that the death penalty will be eliminated, and give support to each other especially as executions draw near. For the 160 people (159 men and 1 woman) and their families FTM is a source of HOPE.

## **Spanish Classes Help You and Immigrants—Coming Soon**

Want to learn to read, write and speak Spanish? An experienced Spanish teacher is offering daytime classes for adults from the end of September through the first week of December. The cost is competitive and all proceeds will go to IJPC's program that provides emergency help for immigrant families. What a deal! Contact Sr. Alice for details.