

issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Some Reasons to Celebrate 2010!

We seek to start each year with a look back at some of the hard fought victories in order to look forward to the next year with energy and wisdom! Here's a round-up from 2010...

ECO VICTORIES

Solar Energy Time! After various "Shine-Ins," The White House agreed to install solar panels and solar hot water heaters. Also, Western Washington University researchers are pioneering a way to gather light from the whole spectrum, enabling panels to generate energy on overcast days. The increased efficiency will cut the cost of solar panels by as much as 90%! yesmagazine.org

Electric Cars Hit the Road Car manufacturers are rolling out new models such as the Nissan Leaf and new Ford Focus, that will go about 100 miles on one charge.

Public Housing Goes Green

Throughout 2010, green public housing projects have been built or proposed in several major cities, including New York, Chicago, Boston, & San Francisco. greenSource.construction.com

Wind Energy on the Move in the USA

Approval of the nation's first offshore wind farm in Nantucket Sound. triplepundit.com

Let's Go Ride A Bike! NYC is preparing to set up the largest bike share system in the nation. The city is issuing a request for proposals for one-way, short-term bike rentals, a system to augmented transportation networks. wnyc.org

Climate Change Action Reaches Record Levels 350.org Global Work Party featured over 7000 events in 188 countries! The entire planet is engaged! 350.org

LOCAL VICTORIES

Jimmy Heath House Opens For Chronically Homeless Over the Rhine Community Housing opened the Jimmy Heath House, a new permanent supportive housing. It's based on the "housing first" principle, the idea that chronically homeless folks can become clinically and socially stable faster when homelessness is eliminated. otrch.org

Go Interfaith Worker Center Go! After several

years, 357 workers won a settlement against the temporary staffing agency Laborworks and the company Schwan's/Red Baron Pizza for \$75,000. See more exciting victories at cworkers.org

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

Court Says Town Can't Crackdown on Immigrants A federal appeals court ruled that Hazleton, Pa., may not enforce its crackdown on illegal immigrants, dealing another blow to 4-year-old regulations that inspired similar measures around the country. Yesmagazine.org

Sound Strike

It's a combined voice saying we will not tolerate bigotry. Conor Oberst, Rage Against The Machine, Kanye West, Ben Harper, and a growing list of artists refusing to perform in Arizona until the state's anti-immigration law is repealed. thesoundstrike.net

PEACE VICTORIES

START Treaty Ratified! reducing the number of allowable nuclear warheads in the United States and Russia by thousands. A modest step toward the nuclear-free future we need.

Maryland Protects Student Info from Recruiters

After years of organizing, Maryland became the first state to prohibit the automatic release to military recruiters of student info gathered as a result of the administration of the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery Test in the high schools. nnomy.org

San Diego Limits Recruiter Access to Students

The San Diego school board passed a policy to regulate and restrict recruiting in the district's many schools. projectyano.org

Peace Groups Permanently Shut Down Army Experience Center in Philadelphia Several large demonstrations and regular vigils contributed to its demise. shutdowntheaec.net

Protecting Students in Oakland

Oakland Unified School District is now the first and only district in the country to have a policy offering students the chance to OPT OUT of the private recruitment database known as JAMRS. baypeace.org

COMMON GOOD

Parent Occupation Saves Community Space

A 37-day protest by parents in a Chicago neighborhood ended in victory. Whittier Elementary's Field House had been scheduled to be demolished. But

**WINTER
2011**



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parents occupied the building and demanded that the demolition money instead be used to convert the field house into a school library. yesmagazine.org

More states may create public banks By 2011, only one state will have escaped the credit crunch that is pushing other states toward insolvency: North Dakota. North Dakota is also the only state that owns its own bank. The state has its own credit machine, making it independent of the Wall Street banking crisis that has infected the rest of the country. Now, several states

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A Note to Students...

Everyday many young people are getting together to get educated, organize and stand up for what they believe in. As an immigrant myself, I have had many questions and concerns regarding the immigration system and laws here in the U.S. and that is why I decided to get involved. This is the chance for you to do the same thing and much more! IJPC is developing a new program where students from different local universities will get together and share their ideas around immigration issues and ways to be involved in the community. The program will be very flexible to accommodate students' interests and concerns. There will be plenty of room for dialogue and debate. If you are committed to learn more about immigration issues, **this is your opportunity** to meet with other potential young leaders from different universities and get to know each other, network and collaborate with one another. Lets get together and find out what we can do!

Sincerely,

Mayra

A Joyful Christmas Celebration

Dec.18, IJPC partnered with Immigrantes Unidos En Accion to celebrate Christmas with about 70 immigrant families. In this wonderful celebration, we shared food, Christmas music and fun. The families had a joyful time and left with big smiles on their faces and toys from Santa.



This young man sports the latest fashion in reindeer gear.

Our Emergency Assistance Fund has been able to help many immigrant families in need thanks to your generosity. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact the office or make checks payable to IJPC Immigration Fund.

Student Event Details

When: Thursday, Jan. 27

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: IJPC office

We will provide food and refreshments too!
Please RSVP with Mayra at 513-579-8547 or at mayra@ijpc-cincinnati.org

Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center

Founding Sponsors:

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Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington
New Jerusalem Community
Ursulines of Brown County
Ursulines of Cincinnati

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Help yourself and Immigrants through learning Spanish

Want to learn to read, write and speak Spanish? An experienced Spanish teacher is offering daytime classes for adults starting in January. 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 further details!
513 579 8547 alice@ijpc-cincinnati.org

Dialogue on Church Resonates with Many

Well over 100 people participated in a phenomenal dialogue, A Church in Pain: Pathways to Healing on Xavier's campus the evening of November 15. Their rapt attention to the four speakers and open, honest dialogue in the small groups afterwards gave unequivocal approval for the evening. The sponsors – Bellarmine Parish, XU Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice, along with the Theology Department worked for months with IJPC to offer this dialogue. IJPC helped with the structure of the evening and provided the facilitators for the small groups.

Parishioners at Bellarmine helped define the topic by expressing their feelings and needs surrounding the Catholic Church.

The committee then worked to put a name on their interests and attract speakers who could openly share their tensions and pathways to healing within the Church. The areas of tension were: The beauty of Catholic social teaching and lack of widespread application; being gay in the Church; sexual abuse scandal; and women's call to the priesthood. Pathways to healing expressed by the speakers were: importance of a faith community; being able to express yourself authentically within a faith community and be accepted; the belief that God is good and that the Spirit will continue to bring new things into being; and finally, being a part of the cloud of witnesses working to rebuild and repair the Church.

The speakers and small groups moved those experiencing the evening to such an extent that nearly all who provided feedback said they would like a follow up dialogue. Realizing the importance of what they had done, the committee quickly began working to offer of another dialogue.



Day of Dialogue Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center

Calling Volunteers!

The Before You Enlist program exists to limit military recruiter abuses and make sure high school students are fully aware of all of the options available to them after they graduate. IJPC hopes to help area schools prepare for and prevent potential military recruiter abuses. Please contact Katherine at 513-579-8547 or Katherine@ijpc-cincinnati.org if you are interested in helping!

Nonviolent Conflict Training

IJPC invites you to a Nonviolent Conflict training on January 22, 2011 from 9:00am-4:00pm at Peaslee Neighborhood Center, 215 E.14th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202!

Take one practical step towards a less violent world. This workshop will introduce techniques you can use when faced with a conflict that might turn nasty or violent. 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.

The one-day workshop is filled with hands-on exercises and role-plays that will introduce you to:

- Basic nonviolent communication and conflict resolution methods
- How you can use these skills when you come across conflict in your daily life
- How local and international peace teams use nonviolent strategies in larger conflicts

RSVP ASAP to Kristen at 513-579-8547

Ever Thought of Being a Facilitator?

IJPC offers a unique opportunity to learn facilitation skills whether as a dialogue facilitator or within other social settings, and it's free! Call to reserve a place. Our next training will be Saturday, February 5 at the Peaslee Neighborhood Center from 9am-12:30pm. Call Kristen at 513-579-8547

A Step Toward Immigration Reform: The DREAM Act

The DREAM Act was a bipartisan bill that would enable young people who were brought to this country as children and attended higher education or joined the military to follow a path towards citizenship. The DREAM Act has been in the making for ten years and on December 15th we witnessed a deserved victory: The House passed the DREAM Act 216-198! However, when things moved into the Senate a week later, we were short 5 votes from turning this dream into reality. The vote brought disappointment for many around the country, but also encouragement and persuasion. We got closer than we've ever been! We will continue to work on steps towards comprehensive immigration reform, steps towards a stronger America. We will continue to support efforts to help undocumented youth that want to contribute to our education system, to our economy and to the country they call "home." Comprehensive Immigration Reform will provide more opportunities for everyone across the country. It impacts more than just immigrants. It impacts everyone!

Have YOU thought about. . .

- The 65,000 undocumented youth that aren't able to fulfill their dreams or live up to their potential because of their status?
- The talent we are losing by deporting students who more than anything want to contribute to the country they call "home"?
- The immigration reform as an investment in America's youth, and in the future workforce of America?
- Being brought to a new country as a child, through no fault of your own, and not having an option, or a chance to go beyond high school?



Bernard Pastor graduated from Reading High School

A Victory in the Name of Justice

Eighteen-year-old Bernard Pastor becoming reality because of our broken immigration system.

graduated in the top 5 of his class in Reading, OH. He was a star of his soccer team and served as a youth minister with dreams of going to college and becoming a pastor. However, his dreams were shattered when he was detained due to a minor traffic accident and put up for deportation.

Pastor came to the United States at the age of 3 when his family was escaping religious persecution from Guatemala. Bernard's situation is not uncommon. He represents the thousands of students who live in the shadows with dreams far from

becoming reality because of our broken immigration system. Bernard's case reached national coverage as many of his classmates, activists, religious leaders and many others rallied, prayed and looked after him. After spending a month in the detention center, Bernard was released and was granted "deferred action status" for a year. During this time he can work, go to college and apply for permanent residency. Bernard was freed just in time for the holidays. The news brought joy to many of us fighting for justice across the country!

Now, what can YOU do?

- **Educate yourself**-Question what you hear and the source. Build an opinion and get involved. Don't be afraid to stand for what you believe!
- **Educate others**-Speak up for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and for other students like Bernard by sharing Bernard's story with your friends, family, etc.
- **Reach out**-Get to know the undocumented youth or an immigrant family in your community who live in fear or might be facing deportation.
- **Contact your elected officials**-Let them know of the importance of their support for DREAM Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform.



Bernard Pastor on the day of his release, finally united with all his friends. Their big smiles say it all!

Be sure to sign up for IJPC's New Immigration E-list to get the latest updates!



Also, check out our new and improved Immigration Resources Page on a regular basis. We are constantly updating it from upcoming legislation to myths about immigrants, as well as information on direct services and educational materials. Get involved at ijpc-cincinnati.org/immigration/immigration-resources

Death Penalty – Bad News and Good News

Since 1995, IJPC has had as one of its major programs working against the death penalty. We have mourned each of the 41 men executed by the State of Ohio and the 3 men executed by Kentucky. The most recent addition to this list is Michael Bengé – executed by Ohio on October 6, 2010.

The following 2011 execution dates are set in Ohio: Frank Spisak – Feb. 17 and Johnnie Baston – March 10, 2011. Paper and on-line petitions can be found on the IJPC website ijpc-cincinnati.org. Please sign and ask friends to do the same. Every signature helps.

AND THE GOOD NEWS – Ohio death row inmates Kevin Keith and Sidney Cornwell had their **sentences commuted** by Governor Strickland. Both now have life without the possibility of parole. Gregory Wilson's execution was blocked by the court over concerns about the State of Kentucky's lethal injection process and questions about Greg's mental capacity. In each case we hoped for more but we are still grateful.

When she was in the Greater Cincinnati area, Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ met with Judy and Chuck Hogan, the parents of Shawn Hawkins on Ohio's death row. **Shawn could have a viable innocence case** if the courts or the Governor would do a review his case. Sr. Helen's visit was covered by the Cincinnati Enquirer and gave renewed energy to work to save Shawn. More facts about his case are available on the IJPC Website.

On October 27, Anthony Graves was released from prison in Texas. Anthony had been in prison for 18 years, 12 of them on death row. **Graves was released from death row after prosecutors conducted their own investigation and found him to be innocent.** This happened after students of the University of Houston Law Center Innocence Network did their own investigation and an article about the case appeared in Texas Monthly about the case. Anthony is the 138th person to be exonerated in the U.S. since 1973.

More and more prominent persons are coming forward in their opposition to the death penalty. As he retired after his nearly 35 year term on the U.S. Supreme Court, **Justice John Paul Stevens said that the lone vote he regrets is the one that he cast to restore the death penalty in 1976.** Justice Stevens is willing to speak out about what made him change his opinion. In a recent article published in the New York Review of Books he points out multiple cases that show the problems with the death penalty.

In an op-ed article on November 29, Bob Herbert of the New York Times states, "***Innocents have undoubtedly been executed. Executions have been upheld in cases in which defense lawyers slept through crucial proceedings. Alcoholic, drug-addicted and incompetent lawyers – as well as lawyers who had been suspended or otherwise disciplined for misconduct – have been assigned to indigent defendants. And it has always been the case that the death penalty machinery is fired up far more often when the victims are white.***"

27 men on Ohio's death row have had their convictions vacated or their sentences reduced since February 2006. In the same period, 22 men were executed. In other words, more people left death row through judicial reversals than executions. **How many more people awaiting execution should not be on death row?**

OTSE Announces New Effort

OTSE, Ohioans To Stop Execution, has as its goal the elimination of the death penalty in Ohio. The main work has been to seek a moratorium on executions while a thorough study of the present system was undertaken. OTSE has been and remains confident that any impartial review would show how broken and unjust the system is. We thank the many churches, civic groups, religious leaders etc. who have helped us move toward a study.

With three states repealing the death penalty in the last few years and several more getting very close, OTSE has adopted a new strategy to push Ohio toward abolition. The hope is to identify and organize people in every one of the 88 counties who will educate others and speak out against the death penalty.

This is a major task but one that needs to be done. Are you willing to help? Do you know of a church or other group that would want a speaker? Lent is coming up. What a perfect time to address this issue in the faith community!

[Contact Renee at 513 543 1585](mailto:renee@otse.org)

Shared Prosperity & Fiscal Responsibility

Help expand and inform the conversation around Jobs, Deficit Reduction, and the Economy. Only a path that fosters broadly shared economic growth and security will be sustainable in the long run.

Is the Federal Government Budget like a Household Budget? According to economists, government budgets and household budgets work the opposite in one simple way: Governments can and should spend more when times are tough. Government spending makes up for lack of spending by families and businesses, and it helps end a recession by getting people back to work, keeping businesses open and more. Households spend more once times are good again, but that's when Government focuses on balancing the books: once the slowdown has ended, people are back at work, and tax revenues are back up. For instance, World War II debt was significantly higher as a proportion of the economy than it is today. But as the economy improved, debt came back down to acceptable levels.

Lesson of 1937

The nation has been in similar circumstances before. Roosevelt's New Deal reduced unemployment from 25% to 10% in 3 years, but he was then pressured to reduce spending before the economy was fully stabilized. This resulted in another sharp increase in unemployment and a weakened economy that only improved when the nation entered World War II. As in 1937, the nation's economy is teetering on the brink of recovery. More investment is needed. Premature austerity would be as unwise and counterproductive now as it was then. It would end any chance of building a new foundation for growth and shared prosperity. The massive wartime deficits (investments in manufacturing, etc peaking at 28% of GDP compared to less than 9% today) finally produced a strong recovery. Unlike today's deficit hawks, postwar leaders were wise enough not to panic about the large war debt (twice today's size relative to the economy) but continued such public investments as the G.I. bill, low-interest home loans, and the interstate highway system. Unlike an austerity plan that would have made debt loom larger, the postwar boom enabled the economy to grow its way out of debt.

Public Investment works!

During a recession private sector demand falls, people lose their jobs, and so overall spending drops. Economists tell us

that the government can stop the downward spiral in the economy by providing help to the unemployed and investing in public projects that we need for future economic growth (bridges, water systems, buildings). Besides providing direct employment to those hired by the firms who get the construction projects, as the wages working on the projects are circulated to the local stores and businesses, the effects of the investments get multiplied in the local economy.

Plans to grow the Economy and Cut Deficits

- Find an excellent, thorough and pragmatic report entitled **"Investing in America's Economy: A Budget Blueprint for Economic Recovery & Fiscal Sustainability"** by Demos, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Century Foundation. See ourfiscalsecurity.org
- Find out more about **Rep. Jan Schakowsky's Deficit Reduction Plan** which achieves deficit reduction without harming lower-income and middle-income Americans, which creates jobs, and economic prosperity, make investments that keep America strong and competitive and raises sufficient revenue to fund them, provides shared opportunity and reduces unprecedented income disparities. See shakowsky.house.gov for details.

Some highlights of the plans-

- **Jobs First!** Smart public investment to create jobs which are essential to our capacity to build a solid revenue base critical to reducing deficits.
- **Get a handle on health care.** Uncontrolled and rapidly rising health care costs are the main driver of projected deficits. Options include establishment of a robust public option plan available to all Americans, direct government negotiation of drug prices, as well as other cost-cutting and quality improvement measures found in the plans.
- **Modernize tax code to raise adequate revenue** to fund national priorities. As Bill Gates Sr. says, "Our current tax structure is incapable of producing the funding needed for world class education and health systems."
- **Cut defense spending.** The bipartisan Sustainable Defense Task Force identified \$960 billion dollars worth of savings from the base Defense Dept Budget that would not sacrifice security. Ending the wars that have so far consumed over a trillion dollars would save an immediate additional \$5 billion dollars a month as well.

Facts about Social Security -

- Provides guaranteed benefits that keeps up with the cost of living.
- Helps stabilize US economy during down times. It's funded by payroll taxes
- Almost half of the elderly would be poor without social security. Lifts 13 million elderly Americans out of poverty. It provides important life insurance and disability insurance protection as well.
- Social security can pay full benefits through 2037 without any changes, and relatively modest changes would place the program on sound financial footing for 75 years and beyond (i.e. raising the cap on earnings subject to Social Security Tax. There are other options as well) Source: Center on Budget & Policy Priorities cdpp.org

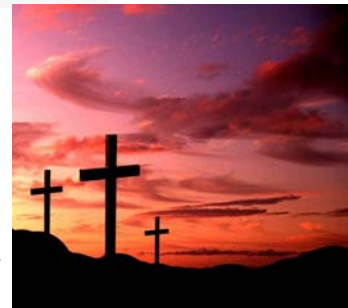
Ohio's Deficit & Afghanistan War Spending

Did you know Ohio taxpayers' share of the Afghanistan war as of the end of 2010 was \$13.4 billion. How much healthcare or education, and affordable housing units could that have provided? How many jobs could that have created? How could that money have helped with the \$7 billion deficit Ohio currently faces? While U.S. cities and towns struggle with insufficient funding, the Department of Defense budget increases significantly year after year unlike the federal grants to states. It's time to refocus priorities and broaden the definition of security to encompass health care, education, housing, job creation, renewable energy, and infrastructure. Increased federal investments in states will reap dividends for generations to come. See policymattersohio.org for more info. Also, a new coalition of unions and social service agencies is forming called OneOhioNow.com to promote the need for critical investment in Ohio. A kickoff rally will be held Jan 14.



Way of the Cross/ Way of Justice will be held on Friday, April 22, 2011 this year!

Through scripture, reflection, and song, local residents from churches, schools, social service organizations, and peace and justice groups will connect the suffering Jesus endured to the suffering that occurs today locally, nationally, and globally.



The theme this year is appropriate to Earth Day. All are welcome for this time of prayer. For more information, please contact the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center at 513-579-8547

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are considering a similar state bank. yesmagazine.org

Participatory Budgeting Builds Community Every Chicago ward receives \$1.3 million a year to spend on roads, sewers and other infrastructure. Alderman Joe Moore let residents choose exactly where they want the money to go. Neighborhood committees were formed, drafted a list of projects they wanted to fund and put it to a vote. www.watsonblogs.org/participatorybudgeting

Appeals Court Rules Inmates Entitled to Voting Rights A panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said the state's prison system is "infected" with racial discrimination and therefore violates voting laws. yesmagazine.org

Aung San Suu Kyi was freed!

Historic Financial Reform Passes! This financial reform bill takes some key steps towards breaking the control that Wall Street has over our country. This important victory is just the beginning.

Amendment Adopted to Open the Fed's Books Under pressure from community organizations, the US Senate adopted the Sanders amendment to the banking reform bill that has brought about the first ever audit of the Federal Reserve. This is a major step towards accountability.

Student Aid Reform This bill takes away subsidies given to loan companies & invests them into programs such as the Pell grant and community colleges.

Oregon says Don't Cut Services, Raise Taxes on Wealthy The Yes for Oregon campaign, led by the AFL-CIO & SEIU with a coalition of 250 groups state-wide, preserved funding for education & essential services with the passage of two ballot measures. The first tax increase in Oregon since the 1930s was a historic step toward fairness-although many Oregonians agree that the tax structure needs more change to make it stable and fair. labornotes.org

Healthcare Legislation Passes Congress Pre-existing conditions be gone! Free preventive care, Patient Bill of Rights, extension of family insurance until 26, tax credits to help small businesses afford health coverage. A step in the right direction.

Vermont Leading the Way On HealthCare

After two years, the HealthCare Is a Human Right Campaign won legislation in 2010. Legislation which commits the state to implementing a new healthcare system which meets the human rights principles of universality, equity, accountability, transparency and participation. Dr. William Hsiao, who designed Taiwan's single-payer system, is designing three options for the state, one of which will be a single-payer system and all of which must meet the human rights principles. www.workerscenter.org

WORKER JUSTICE

Excluded Workers Unite to Expand the Right to Organize At a time when legislators in several states are threatening to eliminate the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain, representatives from 9 different sectors release "Unity for Dignity: Expanding the Right to Organize to Win Human Rights at Work," a report highlighting ongoing efforts to dramatically expand workers' human right to organize and collectively bargain. excludedworkers.org

Victory for Express Scripts Workers!

After a months-long struggle with Express Scripts, activists have forced Express Scripts Inc. to reverse their decision to close plant; 400 family-supporting, union jobs saved. Jwj.org

After community pressure, Hugo Boss re-opens plant! Campaign to save 300+ jobs at a Hugo Boss plant in suburban Cleveland resulted in victory when the company reversed their decision to shutter the plant! Jwj.org

Jobs Victory in Miami! With unemployment in Miami at over 14%, labor and community came together to say that in these harsh economic times: "If you cut one of us, you cut us all." A network stood together to protect 1,200 public sector jobs and prevent a 25% cut in funding for community based organizations. Jwj.org

First Ever Law Protecting Domestic Workers' Rights NY Governor signed into law the first-ever U.S. law that upholds domestic workers' rights! Jwj.org

Go Coalition of Immokalee Workers Go! Aramark becomes the 8th major food corporation to agree to work with the CIW to improve wages and root out modern-day slavery in its tomato supply chain! ciw-online.org

In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

IJPC is grateful to all for an enriching 25th Anniversary year!

Alice, Eunice, Katherine, Kristen and Mayra

Your generous contributions sustain our programs and allow us to create new projects. In 2002 you helped us create the Nationally Acclaimed Families That Matter Project— a one-of-its kind organizing model. This year your generosity will allow us to expand our Immigration Programs and dive into the much needed student organizing aspect of Immigration Reform.

We respond to the needs of the community and the work toward justice in many unique ways. Please be generous this year during our annual Phon-a-thon. Those contributions support our Dialogues, Trainings, Outreach, Immigration work, Death Penalty Abolition, Before You Enlist, Families That Matter, newsletters, website, etc. **WE CANNOT REACH THESE AMAZING VICTORIES WITHOUT YOU!**

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Welcome New Staff



Mayra Alza joined IJPC as a volunteer in the summer of 2010 and later joined as a staff member for Immigration. She was born in Peru, where she grew up until the age of 15. Mayra has been living in Cincinnati with her family since then. Mayra is currently finishing her last year at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in International Affairs, focusing on International Human Rights and will receive a minor in French. Mayra is very involved in extracurricular activities as she is the President of UC's French Club and Vice President of Latinos en Accion, a student run organization working to ensure the success of Latinos during their university career. Mayra enjoys working with the Latino community and is very passionate about immigration reform. While leading the Immigration Programs at IJPC, she is piloting a new program for Latino students to not only empower them, but also to get them more educated and involved in social justice issues.

Katherine Cummins joined IJPC as an Americorps volunteer in September 2010. At IJPC she assists three program coordinators in organizing events, contacting volunteers, and creating workshops. For our Counter Recruitment effort, Katherine prepares educational and workshop materials for teachers and volunteers. More specifically she directs the Adopt a School Project and convenes the Way of Cross/Way of Justice event. Katherine enjoys taking part in research and production of reports for newsletters and grants. Outside of IJPC Katherine volunteers with the Notre Dame Mission Volunteer of AmeriCorps team on local projects, such as aiding Cincinnati Housing Partners' projects. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in English. While at UC she volunteered with the Cincinnati Homeless Coalition and studied abroad in France and Italy. She also was the president of the Undergraduate English Society. She just adopted a dog named Stella and loves her very much. She is excited to work at IJPC!



We are grateful for the strength of our current team. Starting in Jan 2011, Katie Hamann of Xavier University will begin her internship supporting all of our program areas. We are excited to have her fresh energy and ideas!

In January Julia Przybsz returned to support our Families That Matter work. Julia was with IJPC from 2006-2009 and grew the FTM program into a nationally recognized project. We are thrilled to have her with us once again.