



Jewish Community Action Annual Report 2009

In these challenging times, Jewish Community Action's work for justice is as important as ever. Highlights of our past year's efforts are heartening, and yet there is much still to do.

Organizing for immigrant rights

When President Obama took office, JCA and its local and national allies developed Progress by Pesach (Passover), a coalition of 18 groups, to persuade the president to end immigration raids. More than 20 events brought attention to the devastating effects of raids. Over 1,000 people demonstrated in south Minneapolis, and JCA members contributed to national efforts, including a press conference in D.C., a meeting with White House staffers, news stories, letter-writing and submission of 4,000 petition signatures.

National immigration policy did shift, but not as we hoped: Instead of using raids to deport or criminalize undocumented immigrants, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has focused on employers, who are compelled to terminate those who cannot show the legal right to work in the U.S. JCA now participates in revitalized efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform and became a new partner in the local immigrant rights work of Mujeres en Liderazgo, a women's leadership initiative of Waite House.

In its role organizing the Coalition for Permanent Residency, JCA has held meetings with Senator Klobuchar and Senator Franken's staff, helped the local Liberian community gain nationwide support, and worked with HIAS. While legal status for Liberians has been extended, we continue to work toward a path to permanent residency for this community and other refugees under temporary protective status.

Preventing foreclosure

As part of the new Northside Community Reinvestment Coalition, JCA contacted hundreds of homeowners at risk of foreclosure and tenants at risk of eviction in north and south

Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park, and Brooklyn Center. JCA members and resident leaders examined thousands of records and reached out through hand-addressed letters, phone banks, and targeted doorknocks. We directed people to reputable foreclosure prevention counseling and tenant rights' advocacy. We also built a powerful team dedicated to helping lenders understand that broad-scale change is needed to simplify loan modifications, protect people's assets, and keep families and neighborhoods stable.

Ensuring transit equity in St. Paul

After several years of persistent advocacy, the JCA-led Stops for Us! coalition in St. Paul persuaded the Met Council to build three additional light rail stops in the most transit-dependent neighborhoods along University Avenue. These stops will reduce the distance between stations from one mile to half a mile, and will make the new light rail line far more useful to the primarily lower-income people of color who live near the line. JCA also leads the Frogtown Rondo Action Network in developing a new racial equity impact tool—similar to an environmental impact tool—for the City of St. Paul.

Covering the uninsured in Minnesota

In partnership with Mount Zion Congregation, JCA helped ensure expansion of state healthcare coverage to 20,000 additional children in 2009. After the 2009 legislative session, in response to the governor's plan to end General Assistance Medical Care, we participated in the Save GAMC Coalition. This work led to a still-evolving solution to guarantee that the poorest Minnesotans will not be turned away from hospitals and clinics, and that these hospitals and clinics will not be bankrupted by the cost of caring for the most vulnerable.

Supporting community benefits in Postville, Iowa

JCA has helped develop the Postville Community Benefits Alliance with former employees of the kosher

meatpacking plant, religious leaders, and city officials. This leadership group aims to work closely with the new plant ownership to ensure that environmental protections, worker benefits, and standards for animal treatment are met.

Engaging multiple parts of the Jewish community

VOICE Community Building Initiative, a partnership with Sabes JCC and Minneapolis Jewish Federation, has brought together Russian-speaking, Jewish immigrants in downtown Minneapolis. Primarily older, low-income, and isolated from the Jewish community and much of American life, these immigrants are now developing cultural programs and solving their own community problems. They successfully organized for Section 8 public housing recertification at their building, and, when building management attempted to deny them use of the community room for celebration of Jewish holidays, they stood fast and won. "The American VOICE of the Soviet Jews" chronicles their lives in film.

JCA also launched Seeds of Justice, a fellowship for 14 local high school students, who have spent the academic year learning about the intersection of social change, community organizing, and Jewish values through workshops and apprenticeships with JCA staff organizers. JCA's Indie Jews—mostly unaffiliated Jews in their 20s and 30s—held monthly Shabbat dinners and social justice discussions, organized film screenings on social change issues, worked on immigrant rights, and organized the fourth annual Jewbilee on December 24th, 2009.

All of this in addition to ongoing organizing in eight congregations in the Twin Cities and Duluth!

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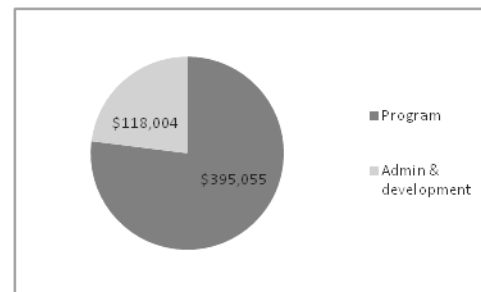
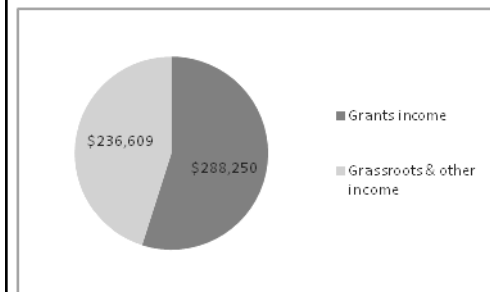
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| The Databank | Mount Zion Temple | Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity |
| Doroshov Fund, United Jewish Fund &
Council | Otogawa-Anschel | UFCW Local 789 |
| Abraham & Sarah Eiser Foundation | Paper Depot | UNITE HERE Local 17 |
| Jack & Bessie Fiterman Foundation | Park Avenue Youth & Family Services | United Synagogue for Conservative Juda-
ism |
| Frederick & Rosen | The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation | University of Minnesota |
| Fredrickson & Byron | Samuel & Edythe Pivar Fund, Jewish
Communal Fund (N.Y.) | University of St. Thomas |
| GiveMn.org, Network for Good, Give to
the Max | Public Policy Project | VISTA |
| David & Candy Gray Fund, The Saint Paul
Foundation | RBC Wealth Management, Darla Kashian | Wells Fargo |
| Greater Twin Cities United Way workplace
giving | Sabes Jewish Community Center | Western Bank |
| Hamline University | | Barbra Wiener Fund, Headwaters Founda-
tion for Justice |

Jewish Community Action Financial Summary 2009 (1/1/2009-12/31/2009, unaudited)



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