IMPACT REPORT
2016

MODULAR HOMES AT NEHEMIAH SPRING CREEK DEVELOPMENT IN EAST NEW YORK
Metro IAF is a network of 22 affiliate organizations located in the East, Southeast and Midwest U.S.

We are part of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation’s first and largest network of multi-faith and broad-based community power organizations with over 75 years of experience fighting and winning battles others say are impossible to win.
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What the President of the United States can do to curb gun deaths:
2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

✓ Won commitment to reduce over-charging of low-level felonies by 7-15% in Cleveland
✓ Won license reinstatement for people with prior drug convictions in Boston

>> See More Criminal Justice Victories

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

✓ Total of 80 properties sold worth over $6 Million in Milwaukee
✓ Won repairs for half of 1,700 maintenance requests in NYCHA apartments in New York

>> See More Affordable Housing Victories

MENTAL HEALTH

✓ Demanded and won $40,000 for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to divert those with mental illness from jails in Chicago area
✓ Won commitment from DuPage County, IL that 1,600 officers will be trained by end of 2017

>> See More Mental Health Victories

JOBS

✓ Won living-wage jobs from Under Armour/Sagamore Development for unemployed, returning citizens & $25 Million in workforce development in Baltimore
✓ Won 51% local hiring mandate for DC Water jobs in Washington, DC

>> See More Jobs Victories

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION

✓ Pushed President Obama to require federal agencies push for "smart guns"
✓ Total of 109 city, county & state signatories for DNSIB campaign for safer, smarter guns

>> See More Gun Violence Reduction Victories
2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

HEALTHCARE

- Secured $100 Million in Health Insurance Savings in Connecticut
- Held Accountable a Special Commission to keep health insurance prices affordable for Massachusetts residents

>> See More Healthcare Victories

NEW AFFILIATE AND RE-FOUNDING

- New Jersey Together publicly launched with 890+ leaders
- Re-founded East Brooklyn Congregations with 1,500 leaders in New York

>> See More Affiliate & Re-Founding Victories

EDUCATION & YOUTH

- Won $22 Million from the New York Department of Education
- Won $240,000 in after-school funding serving 240 students from mainly low-income and immigrant communities in Maryland

>> See More Education & Youth Victories

IMMIGRATION

- Fought to reduce $1.3 Million in fees & fines paid by immigrants in North Carolina
- Hosted 3,000 attendees getting to know their Muslim neighbors in Illinois

>> See More Immigration Victories

LOCAL VICTORIES & ACTION

- 14,155 doors knocked in 2 months leading to $70 Million in school investments in Cleveland, Ohio
- Won $28 Million to renovate community centers in historically Black communities in Maryland

>> See More Actions & Local Victories
“Where there is no vision,
The people perish.”

-Proverbs 29:18
Mr. Oussama Jammal  
*United Power for Action & Justice, Chicago*

Mr. Bob Connolly  
*Common Ground, Milwaukee*

Rev. Getulio Cruz  
*Manhattan Together*

Rev. Richard Gibson  
*Greater Cleveland Congregations*

Ms. Fran Godine  
*Greater Boston Interfaith Organization*

Ms. Carmelia Goffe  
*East Brooklyn Congregations*

Rev. David Haberer  
*South Bronx Churches*

Mr. Oussama Jammal  
*United Power for Action & Justice, Chicago*

Bishop Douglas Miles  
*Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development*

Rev. Joe Muth  
*Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development*

Rev. Patrick O'Connor  
*EQUAL, Queens, NY*

Ms. Maggie Perales  
*United Power for Action & Justice, Chicago*

Ms. Carol Reckling  
*Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development*
APPENDIX
Criminal Justice Reform, Mental Health & Police Accountability

After a summer of violence and frustration in scores of communities across the country in 2016, Metro IAF affiliates continued to provide innovative solutions to create safer communities and hold accountable those meant to serve and protect our neighborhoods.

Metro IAF has proven its ability to provide measurable improvements in the relations between police and community residents and in its demands to implement a better system to divert those with mental illness from our criminal justice system.

Demands to 2016 Candidates for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor:

* Create independent investigation/prosecution on cases involving police use of lethal force
* Reduce the overcharging of low level nonviolent drug offenders
* Expand diversion opportunities

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC)

2016 GOTV CAMPAIGN REVEALED...

Out of 2,500 Cuyahoga County residents, 68% are unsatisfied with the Criminal Justice System.
Criminal Justice Reform, Mental Health & Police Accountability

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC)

In response to a vote of no-confidence from county residents, GCC held a 1,500 person action and won commitments from the newly elected County Prosecutor, Michael O’Malley:

1. GCC’s original list of demands (independent investigations on police use of lethal force, reduction of overcharging and more diversion opportunities) plus the institution of the first-ever Civil Rights Division within the County Prosecutor’s office.

2. Establishment of 2 mental health triage centers so mentally ill are treated, not jailed.

3. Reduction of mass incarceration in Cuyahoga County, meeting a goal to reduce over-charging of low-level misdemeanors as felonies by 7-15% annually.

CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZED FOR A NEW CONNECTICUT (CONECT)

CONECT has been demanding transparency, accountability, and responsiveness from the Bridgeport Police Department.

At a January 2016 650-person Winter Assembly, CONECT pressed newly elected Mayor Ganim to make good on commitments around police hiring, racial and cultural sensitivity and de-escalation training for all new and existing officers and improving community policing strategies.

To date, the Mayor and Police Department are on track to meet their commitments of hiring a full force by onboarding 100 new officers by the end of 2017.
In 2016, GBIO demanded reform of the criminal justice system. As a result, the Massachusetts legislature passed and the Governor signed, legislation that makes vehicle operators with certain prior drug convictions eligible for immediate license reinstatement.

Under the old law, anyone convicted of a drug crime, whether related to driving or not, had his or her license suspended for five years and in addition, had to pay a fine of at least $500 to have it reinstated. The legislature also initiated a comprehensive study of the state’s criminal justice system.
Manhattan Together and South Bronx Churches safety teams in East Harlem and the South Bronx pushed police to take successful action against chronic crime problems. Patrols increased in dangerous East Harlem housing projects after hundreds of MT leaders gathered to call on police and prosecutors to take action.

In the Bronx, SBC pressured the NYPD to replace the ineffective Commanding Officer (CO) of the 40th Precinct. SBC held an action with hundreds of people at the site of machete and shotgun attacks the CO’s precinct had ignored. The new CO has made the community much safer.

South Bronx Churches organized to replace an ineffective Commanding Officer in a dangerous and neglected precinct.

Leaders successfully pushed the NYPD to take action against chronic crime problems.
WHAT IS CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINING?

- Gives Police Officers More Tools to Do Their Jobs Safely and Effectively
- Keeps People with Mental Illness Out of Jail and into Treatment to Recover
- Minimizes Amount of Time Officers Spend on Mental Disturbance Calls
- Saves Public Money – Reduces Number of Re-Arrests of People with Mental Illness by 58% and Prevents Occupation of Expensive Prison Beds
- Decreases Officer Injury and Use of Force Cases

One-third of all people incarcerated have a mental illness. When those with mental illnesses are sent to jail rather than into places of treatment, there is no pathway to recovery and public resources are burdened with the cost of housing but not improving the condition of those suffering from mental illness. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a method proven to treat mental illness and reduce recidivism rates.

In Kane County, IL, 20% of all inmates (1,900 total) entering Kane County Jail in 2014 were found to have mental health issues.

ILLINOIS FOX RIVER VALLEY INITIATIVE (FRVI)

Won Commitment of $40,000 from the budget of Kane County State’s Attorney, Joe McMahon, to train 120 officers in CIT Training.

MENTAL HEALTH VICTORIES

- One-third of all people incarcerated have a mental illness. When those with mental illnesses are sent to jail rather than into places of treatment, there is no pathway to recovery and public resources are burdened with the cost of housing but not improving the condition of those suffering from mental illness. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a method proven to treat mental illness and reduce recidivism rates.

- In Kane County, IL, 20% of all inmates (1,900 total) entering Kane County Jail in 2014 were found to have mental health issues.
650 DuPage United leaders held an action to recognize law enforcement who have helped support and expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in DuPage County.

The action also served as an opportunity to push forward initiatives to have hospitals fund and construct crisis diversion centers to combat the incarceration of people with mental illness.

Police chiefs who were present pledged to continue to protect citizens, regardless of race or religion. Because of the work of DuPage United, DuPage County will now offer CIT training multiple times a year, training more officers per year on the critical de-escalation techniques for crisis situations.
“CIT training helps to de-escalate those situations and keeps people out of jail and out of the emergency departments because you can’t get well in jail.”

- Reverend Mike Solberg, Union Church of Hinsdale

United Power pushed support for crisis stabilization centers -- a resource for law enforcement to take individuals experiencing mental health crisis to be assessed and treated by mental health professionals rather than taking individuals to jail.

To build support and momentum around crisis stabilization centers, four Illinois Metro IAF affiliates and their leaders organized a convening.

1-Day Statewide Conference on CIT Training

100 Key Illinois Stakeholders:
* Public Officials
* Law Enforcement
* State’s Attorney
* Judges

*Specific locations to create these centers in Illinois are currently being explored.
The absence of living-wage jobs touches and affects every corner of our lives. Without jobs, we see families struggle to provide for their children, health and well-being suffers, blight replaces thriving neighborhoods, school performance rates decline and drop-out rates and crime increase.

Lack of jobs and the training required to access those jobs is the root cause of declining communities. A focus on bringing jobs back to the most disinvested communities is our action to make communities whole.
When Under Armour sought $600 Million in Baltimore city subsidies for a new waterfront HQ with no commitments to hire nor provide affordable housing for Baltimore residents, BUILD decided to act. After a hard fought 16 week campaign and two straight weeks of negotiation with Sagamore Development, BUILD joined Sagamore Development, Plank Industries, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake and Council President Jack Young to announce an historic agreement that will shift the development paradigm in Baltimore City.

When BUILD got into the fight, the Port Covington TIF’s citywide benefits guaranteed just $10 million for the city and 100 youth jobs for five years. The final $135 Million agreement BUILD negotiated included the following for Baltimore residents:

- **$25 Million** for Workforce Development
- **Tens of Thousands** of Jobs
- **30%** Local Hiring Mandate
- **1,100+** Affordable Housing Units

"We’re not against development. We’re against bad deals.”
- Bishop Douglas I. Miles

**Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD)**
 Since 2015, BUILD has been changing the hiring culture in Baltimore. Working with partners like Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland Medical System, BUILD prepares “returning” citizens and unemployed citizens to reenter the workforce and creates job opportunities in Baltimore.

Due to demand, Turnaround Tuesday expanded to a second location of weekly trainings in West Baltimore in 2016.

240 Individuals Employed in 2016
73% Employee Retention Rate
13 Partnerships with Area Employers
80 Leaders Developed Weekly

BUILD asked ex-offenders what would prevent them from a life of crime. The resounding response was... “JOBS.”

“You have to understand, after I got out, it was the incarceration of my mind that was the hardest thing to break free”...

“For me, this has been a place where people who made mistakes, and paid for them, are forgiven, and allowed to become the best they can be”...“I dream of changing my neighborhood”.

- Voices from Turnaround Tuesday
After listening to unemployed and underemployed Clevelanders, GCC announced its 3-year campaign to create living wage jobs in Cleveland.

**GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC)**

1,500-person Listening Sessions with unemployed Clevelanders resulted in campaign for...

1,000 living wage jobs

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN)**

Together with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), WIN’s organizing raised wages for 200 transit workers at the D.C. Circulator from poverty to middle class.
After the County Executive attempted to undo the stormwater fee in Howard County, PATH worked with the County Council and successfully defeated the County Executive’s proposal. The stormwater fee pays for the READY Program, a youth jobs initiative created by PATH and the Alliance for the Chesapeake in 2010, which employs 45 young people each summer and 10 year-round crew workers to build rain gardens. This victory ensured funding for READY would be maintained.

READY has employed 300 young people since 2010
Affordable Housing Victories

Housing is a basic necessity. Metro IAF understands the importance of making housing accessible and affordable so families can enjoy living in safe and stable communities. Over the last 30 years, Metro IAF affiliates have developed nearly 6,000 Nehemiah homeownership units for first-time homebuyers with foreclosure rates of less than 1%, 1,700 rental units and preserved nearly 1,900 permanent supportive housing units through organizing.

Winning more than $2.3 billion in both public and private financing, Metro IAF has the proven track record and long-term power base to revitalize communities across the country when the government or financial institutions refuse to invest and provide access to credit. Despite opposition or roadblocks, we are helping families rebuild and take back their communities.

MARYLAND

PEOPLE ACTING TOGETHER IN HOWARD (PATH)

PATH SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATES “LIVE WHERE YOU WORK” PROGRAM

As part of the “Live Where You Work” program, PATH won 900 units of affordable housing and $6 million in affordable housing gap financing. PATH worked with the Howard Hughes Corporation, County Council, Housing Commission and the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation to get additional housing in the area over the next 20 years.

Leaders fought for and won provisions that mandate affordable housing and market rate housing be integrated together, look identical, and increases the total number of affordable units by almost 200 units.

PATH’s victory represents the largest commitment to affordable housing since the creation of Columbia by Jim Rouse in 1967.
In 2016, WIN won $100 Million for the DC Housing Production Trust Fund and made progress on the following developments:

**Funding of Parkway Overlook**
Organizing to preserve 200+ units of low income housing in Ward 8. WIN has been working with former tenants to ensure resident ideas are incorporated into the site plan & project is funded. After 8 years of work, the DC Housing Production Trust Fund committed $18 Million in funding.

**John & Jill Ker Conway Building**
WIN organized for the dedication of the land for permanent supportive housing. This paved the way for Community Solutions to develop the project, providing housing for 60 formerly homeless veterans, and 64 affordable units at 60% AMI. Ribbon cutting was on January 12, 2017.

**Groundbreaking of Emory Beacon of Light**
Emory UMC has worked with WIN and others for 10 years to construct The Beacon Center. WIN organized support of the project at the Historic Preservation Review Board. Site broke ground on the 99 units in October 2016.

**Homestead Apartments**
UrbanMatters, WIN's developer offshoot, worked with residents to get a TOPA tenant purchase of the building to preserve 55 units of affordable housing. The project broke ground in September 2016.
Action in Montgomery (AIM) won an additional $51 Million for affordable housing in the Montgomery County Budget, bringing the total over the past 15 years to over $500 Million.

The housing funding produced 983 units of new affordable housing, and preserved 2,646 affordable units. AIM also won 275 units of affordable housing in the redevelopment of one of the wealthiest communities in the nation in Bethesda, MD.

On September 16, 2016 Justice United leaders turned out 493 members to a major action and pledged to deliver 2,640 YES votes for the affordable housing bond, a non-partisan effort that played a key role in passing the referendum.

The bond will deliver $5 Million in funding, a crucial component of a plan to build or improve 1,000 units of affordable housing in Orange County over the next 5 years.

AIM won...

$51 Million to produce 983 new affordable units
NEW YORK

EAST BROOKLYN CONGREGATIONS (EBC)

Spring Creek Development in East New York transformed 45-acres of former Landfill into a robust mixed income, mixed use development.

618 homeownership units 80% Complete
**TRF DP Baltimore Investment**

- **Total Units:** 359
- **Total Investment:** $86.6 million
- **Drop in Vacancy:** 49%
- **Units in development:** 125

**TRF DP Baltimore Impact**

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**MARYLAND**

**BALTIMOREANS UNITED IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)**

49% Drop in vacancy rates
Since July 2016, Manhattan Together and South Bronx Churches have seen more action on repairs in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartments than at any other time in the last several years.

Organizing efforts have moved NYCHA officials to properly complete roughly half of the 1,700 repairs MT & SBC documented in over 500 apartments.

Actions from MT & SBC in 2016 forced NYCHA to complete the most repairs out of any recent year.

**Massachusetts**

**Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)**

GBIO organized support for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) ballot initiative in Boston, designed to increase funding for affordable housing, as well as parks & recreation and historic preservation.

In November 2016, GBIO and other allies helped deliver a 74% vote in favor of the ballot initiative. The potential of this action for the City of Boston is about $20 Million/year for affordable housing and other projects.
Common Ground, the IAF affiliate in Milwaukee, has been successful in holding major international banks accountable for the devastation caused by their sub prime mortgage lending. The result was the Milwaukee Rising, LLC, which Common Ground created in order to revitalize the housing market in the Sherman Park neighborhood, a key area impacted by unscrupulous bank lending.

Milwaukee Rising has acquired, rehabilitated and sold over 80 properties worth $6 million and generating over $200,000 in annual property tax revenue. The keys to the success of the project include:

- Having 8 member institutions willing to provide the leadership to the project
- Having $1 million from the banks in a revolving loan for the acquisition and rehabilitation of properties
- Having a concentrated effort so that the rehabilitation is done strategically with a market driven approach
300 leaders – 200 from Southwest Organizing Project and 100 from other United Power members – gathered to celebrate the conclusion of the first phase of a community revitalization strategy and the start of an expanded and accelerated second phase.

- **Phase 1:** 101 units total. Vacant properties in the target area decreased from 90 to 25. Property values went up, foreclosures went down, crime rates cut in half and schools improved.
- **Phase 2:** Redevelopment will expand, with acquisition and rehab of another 100 homes and properties.

**United Power’s community revitalization strategy cut crime rates in half**

**Number of vacant properties in target area decreased from 90 to 25**
In 2016, VOICE won a $1.2 million increase to a total of $13.7 million for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF), Arlington County’s main financing program for affordable housing development.

- Organized with immigrant tenants at Waples Mobile Home Park to stop predatory $300/month rent increases targeted only at undocumented immigrants.

- Secured AHIF financing to ensure 68 endangered market-rate units remain affordable in northern Virginia.

- Demanded Arlington County meet its 2,500 unit goal along Lee Highway.

- Secured final approval for Ramsey Public Housing Redevelopment which will redevelop and preserve 15 public housing units for low-income Alexandria residents + add 38 new affordable units.

- Conducted housing code violations inspections of all Ramsey homes leading to county housing authority to complete the work and/or address all issues found within 30 days.
Durham CAN demanded and won an agreement for the construction of affordable housing at a 1.9-acre city-owned property located near the central bus hub in downtown. Between 80-120 units will be affordable for families earning 60% of the area median income.

CAN also secured an agreement to build affordable housing at two lots owned by the county government. Situated between two Durham CAN congregations, the lots were previously zoned for parking.

In mixed-income Durham development, **80%** of units will be affordable housing.
Over 200 clergy and lay leaders turned out for a press conference and demanded and won immediate action on a vacant and blighted 20 acre lot in the heart of Durham’s historic African American Hayti business community.

Durham CAN generated an immediate reaction from the Durham Housing Authority, an agency with the right to reacquire the property. A notice of default was recently filed and promising negotiations are underway in order to reacquire the property and redevelop it for affordable housing and community services to provide fresh food and other amenities.
Education is an essential building block to creating a strong foundation in life. Strong schools and after school programs build healthier and stronger neighborhoods and provide an opportunity for communities to thrive. They fuel local economies and help prepare community members for college and the workforce.

Unfortunately, barriers to quality education persist and disparities remain between the most disinvested communities and wealthier areas. Metro IAF affiliates have worked to close the achievement gap by compelling localities and states to invest in programs to give our young people the tools to succeed, like creating Baltimore’s Child First Authority, which provides safe, academic spaces for children after school.

AIM won funding to start free, quality after-school programming for students at Burnt Mills and South Lake Elementary Schools in Montgomery County, MD after successfully organizing with parents.

These schools have majority immigrant and low-income student populations, and 95% of children are on free and reduced lunch. The programs started in January 2017.

$240,000 in After-School Funding
240 Students Served
VOICE leaders in Fairfax County won a new school bus stop for Muslim students.

Leaders also fought for and won $10 million to expand full-day preschool to 11 additional classrooms in Prince William County, VA.

Full-day Preschool expanded to nearly **800** low-income 4-year-olds.
In 2016, youth from CAN member institutions demanded the hiring of additional bilingual counselors at the lowest performing high schools in Durham. During a public action attended by 500 leaders and a subsequent negotiation, the youth secured the following commitments:

- An audit of the Durham Public Schools (DPS) Counseling Department to serve as a baseline for future budget decisions on counselors.
- The hiring of 4 bilingual counselors.
- Two additional college liaisons at Durham Tech Community College.
- Bond referendum funds to be used by Durham Tech to provide scholarships for youth under 25 not connected with education nor meaningful employment.
- Durham Tech and DPS will align the work of their college liaisons and counselors.
- Durham Tech President, PDS Superintendent, and Durham CAN will seek support from the business community for one additional counselor/college liaison.
FIXING SPECIAL EDUCATION IN NEW YORK CITY

In 2016, a NYC Education Department report found that 40% of the city’s 187,000 disabled students were not getting services as required by law. Parents have demanded speedier medical evaluations for children with special needs, and better services and programs for autistic and dyslexic children.

After organizing four actions focused on fixing special education, Manhattan Together and South Bronx Churches forced the Department of Education to invest $22 Million in more services for special needs students, to hire more staff and create more programs for special needs students and take other important initial steps.

“Students are struggling more and families are having a much harder time helping their kids.”
- Rabbi David Adelson
Lake County United members continued work toward improving the graduation rate at Waukegan High School. Parents wanted more resources and information regarding college and more support for bilingual and undocumented students. In the spring, LCU trained 27 leaders in English and Spanish to ongoing listening sessions to better understand the concerns and interests of parents regarding their children’s education.

Over 300 parents participated and the engagement led to an increase in English and computer classes at Most Blessed Trinity. Leaders also met with the new Waukegan Schools Superintendent and School Board members to find ways to work together.

Lake County United was also formally acknowledged and thanked by LEARN President and CEO, Greg White, for LCU’s role in educating the community about charter schools. LCU was also instrumental in laying the ground work for community support that ultimately led to the authorization of LEARN 9 in Waukegan.
For years, Metro IAF member congregations have looked for ways to reduce gun violence in our communities. Our clergy leaders have held too many funerals for children and have counseled too many grieving parents, to Stand Idly By. Metro IAF started by making a difference at the local level, engaging thousands of young people in meaningful activities away from the streets, and working with local police on gun trafficking enforcement.

Through the Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign, Metro IAF identified the players with the most power to make a difference – the owners and investors of the world’s gun manufacturers. Metro IAF won’t let up in this fight until we’ve compelled gun manufacturers to use their power to protect the lives of people across America.

Metro IAF won on gun safety nationally by moving President Obama to require Federal agencies, through their procurement power, to push gun manufacturers to produce a “smart gun,” guns that can only be fired by an authorized user.

To do business with the government, companies would have to be willing to ‘remove the barriers to getting smart guns and gun safety technologies to market’ and cooperate with law enforcement to ‘identify and isolate dealers that provide large numbers of guns used in crimes.’
GCC spent the past two years campaigning to create a ballistics laboratory in Cuyahoga County, OH.

Capabilities of the Ballistics Lab:
- Help investigators link separate crimes to the same gun, and thus the same suspect.
- Allows for closer examination of evidence collected at crime scenes.

Cuyahoga County unveiled the new laboratory in January 2017.

Metro IAF’s Do Not Stand Idly By (DNSIB) campaign persuades gun manufacturers to make and distribute guns more safely and responsibly. It seeks to build an “NRA for the public sector” – an organized group of public-sector gun buyers who can use market power to leverage change.

Top Signatories:
- Atlanta
- Boston
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Connecticut
- Cuyahoga County, OH
- Denver
- Durham
- Illinois
- Jersey City
- Los Angeles
- Maryland
- Milwaukee
- New York City
- Newark
- Oakland
- Pittsburgh
- Reno
- Rochester
- Seattle
- New York City
- Newark
- Oakland
- Pittsburgh
- Reno
- Rochester
- Seattle
- Virginia
“That is YOUR voice changing policy in Washington, DC!

All I was doing was channeling your voice.

Keep organizing. Do it the old fashioned way. And in the end, we’ll win this fight!”

- Sen. Chris Murphy to CONECT

CONECT has played a key role in the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign, which was developed in collaboration with sister organizations in the Metro IAF network.

- JAN. 2016 – Rev. Anthony Bennett chaired press conference in front of White House calling for President Obama to use federal gun purchasing power to influence gun industry development of smart & safe gun technology.

- MAY 2016 – Bought & shared proxies of Stum, Ruger & Co., Inc. stock and attended their May shareholder meeting. Held a tense, frank and ultimately revealing meeting with CEO, Michael Fifer.


- NOV. 2016 – President Obama announces Department of Justice released a detailed description of minimum technical requirements that law enforcement agencies expect from smart gun technology.
In 2016, DNSIB gained two powerful allies, with attorney generals from both Maryland and Virginia signing onto the campaign.

**ILLINOIS & VIRGINIA**

**DO NOT STAND IDLY BY CAMPAIGN**
(DNSIB)

In Chicago, allies of Metro IAF affiliate, United Power, introduced a city council resolution calling on the Chicago Police Department to stop buying guns from local dealers that don’t meet standards of responsible conduct; Mayor Emanuel, like the gun CEO’s, remains silent.

Lake County States Attorney Michael Nerheim signed a Request for Proposal that Lake County United leaders in Illinois are asking local law enforcement to sign, showing manufacturers there is interest in smart gun technology.

VOICE leaders in Prince William County, Virginia moved county sheriff, Sheriff Hill, to write a letter to gun manufacturers as part of the Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign to curb gun violence.
Victories in Health Care

For decades, Metro IAF affiliates have been organizing for better health care options for its members and their greater communities. From leading the fight to ensure passage of the first universal health care law in the U.S. in Massachusetts, to winning a $56 million federal grant to launch a health insurance company of its own known as The Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative (CGHC) in Milwaukee, Metro IAF meets seemingly insurmountable challenges with innovative solutions, time after time.

While others continue to point out the flaws in America’s health care system, Metro IAF affiliates remain in action, working to find and implement results-producing solutions to expand healthcare access and to combat skyrocketing health care costs.

Starting in 2011, CONECT has led the fight to force the state Department of Insurance to hold public hearings whenever insurance companies ask for major rate increases of 10% or greater.

After using the deal to hold hearings each summer for the past three years, CONECT was key in lowering the insurance rates approved and saving consumers in Connecticut millions.

$100 Million in Health Insurance Savings
HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT

GBIO led the fight to create universal health care in Massachusetts, which became the blueprint for expansion of health care nationally. GBIO was also instrumental in the passage of the 2012 law that directs health care providers and insurance companies to limit costs. Excessive prices charged by a few providers are a major contributor to high costs.

In 2016, the Massachusetts legislature set up a Special Commission to investigate “price variation,” and GBIO has continued to monitor the work of the Commission.
Immigration Victories

Metro IAF affiliate member institutions have a successful track record of organizing with its large base of Latino and African immigrant and Muslim members. We organize scores of local actions to address quality of life issues affecting immigrants in schools, recreation, affordable housing and employment.

Metro IAF continues to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, just as we did in 2001 following the September 11th terrorist attacks, when we organized a solidarity action with 4,000 Chicagoland Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

Today’s rising incidents of hate, abuse and intimidation have renewed the call to relentlessly defend immigrants, Muslims, people of color or any other vulnerable group against the threat of attack, violence or unjust harassment.

In 2016, Justice United served as a vehicle through which Latino residents and their allies could negotiate with District Attorney James Woodall to develop a solution to reduce fees and fines for unlicensed, but otherwise safe Latino drivers.

Justice United fought to reduce

$1.3 Million Paid in fees & fines
between 2008-2015

with

250 Latino Residents & Allies
Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor:

This year, over 3,000 people attended open mosque days in DuPage United Member Institutions to “Get to know your Muslim neighbor.”

The open mosque days were organized after an 800 person DuPage United assembly in response to growing Islamaphobic rhetoric and actions that had been taking place in local schools, offices and places of worship.
“Out of Many, One” Action:

In December, GBIO brought together U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and City of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and more than 2,600 people. The action to stand against hate speech, incivility, and violence took place at the Islamic Society of Greater Boston Cultural Center.

Clergy and laity from Christian, Jewish and Islamic congregations were united in their call for greater tolerance.
New Affiliate Organizations & Re-Foundings

Metro IAF has a tradition of identifying and training leaders to enact the change those leaders wish to see in their communities. When the parks become run down, or crime becomes a chronic issue, our leaders are taught how to get results by organizing to demand change rather than waiting for someone else to fix the problem.

In 2016, Metro IAF welcomed a new affiliate into the network and celebrated another on its re-founding. The commitment to be in relationship with one another is what builds power for affiliate organizations to force local authorities to deal with problem areas in their communities or deliver historic community benefits agreements for the most overlooked and forgotten residents.

Leaders gathered at Old Bergen Church, the oldest church in New Jersey, for the launch of New Jersey Together in April 2016. The organization is the largest and most diverse civil society organization in Jersey City.

Leaders conducted a listening campaign with more than 3,000 Jersey City residents. New Jersey Together asked Mayor Steven Fulop, County Executive Tom DeGise, and Superintendent Dr. Marcia Lyles to publicly commit to taking steps around the organization’s top three priorities: Safety & Policing, Youth & Education and Housing & Homelessness.

Jersey City Together also pushed the city to replace CCTV cameras after research revealed only 15% of the cameras worked in the city’s highest crime police district. The city’s first $600,000 investment passed in early December 2016. The first new cameras were installed in January 2017.

890+ Leaders Attended Public Launch On April 11, 2016
On June 5, 2016, Mount Lebanon Baptist Church hosted over 1,500 leaders to celebrate the re-founding of East Brooklyn Congregations. The re-founding included EBC’s expansion into two new neighborhoods -- Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant -- and the joining of 16 new member institutions. $84,500 in new dues were pledged.

At the assembly, Chief of Police for Brooklyn North, and commanding officers from each precinct pledged to work with EBC to keep neighborhoods safe.

EBC is now the largest it’s been in decades, and similar in size to when it was originally founded in 1981.

“For 36 years we have acted to restore our communities lot by lot, block by block...

Our neighborhoods didn’t gentrify – they regenerated.”

- Rev. David Brawley
Local Victories & Action

Our work at the local level is the building block for Metro IAF’s collective power. Each affiliate organization works to build this power everyday by talking to and training ordinary people who are ready and eager to do extraordinary things. Metro IAF trains people to become leaders and through organizing, helps individuals realize and create the collective power required to change and transform their communities.

Through community actions, whether engaging the local city council for more investment into schools, or fighting for livable wages, Metro IAF affiliates hold actions to exercise their power and to demand change that revitalizes neighborhoods, holds police accountable and builds new schools and housing.

ACTION IN MONTGOMERY (AIM)

Action in Montgomery (AIM) leaders gathered for the Ribbon Cutting at the Ross Boddy Community Center. AIM successfully fought for the $28 Million to renovate Ross Boddy and three other community centers in Historic African-American Communities in the 2007 CIP Budget.

Ground-breaking for the building of the 4th community center, Good Hope Community Center, occurred in December 2016.

AIM won $28 Million to renovate community centers in Historic African-American neighborhoods.
While seeking a $600 Million Tax Increment Financing from the city of Baltimore for the expansion of the Under Armour headquarters downtown, Under Armour/Sagamore Development made hollow promises and commitments of only $10 Million for the city as a whole.

BUILD inserted themselves into the process, and pressured the city to delay the TIF approval, driving the City Council to require Under Armour/Sagamore to negotiate a city-wide community benefits agreement with BUILD.

By the end of negotiations, Under Armour/Sagamore Development agreed to the first ever mandate for local hiring and affordable housing, and $135 Million investment in workforce development, youth opportunities and neighborhood development.

Some examples of how the money will be allocated include:

- $39 Million for south Baltimore
- $10 Million for MWBEs
- $10 million for city-wide initiatives
- $5 Million for an East Baltimore recreation center
- $2 Million for scholarships
From October to November 2016, GCC conducted the largest nonpartisan Get Out The Vote campaign in Northeast Ohio. Partnering with the Leadership Lab out of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, GCC knocked on 14,155 doors, and had 5,059 conversations around the importance of voting.

GCC held a “Power to the Polls” action where 500 people marched to the Board of Elections to vote early and make a statement about early voting.

GCC also significantly contributed to winning the renewal of a Cleveland public school levy by a 2-1 margin at the polls.
BUILD kicked off GOTV efforts on March 13, 2016 at the Mayoral Candidate Accountability Action at Coppin State University. In front of 900 BUILD leaders, all major candidates for Mayor pledged to add 15,000 jobs or more over the 4-year term, as well as 1,000 year-round jobs for youth.

Candidates also pledged support for the BUILD One Baltimore election agenda to make Baltimore a city that’s safe and a city for youth. More than 300 volunteers joined in the weeks leading up to and including the April 26th primary that urged 29,000 Baltimoreans to vote.

BUILD One Baltimore Agenda:
- A City With Jobs
- A City For Youth
- A City That’s Safe
- A City That Votes
After the tragic murder of a CONECT leader’s son in April, CONECT swung into action to go after a pizza bar, Slyce Pizza, in Hamden, CT. The restaurant has been at the center of many shootings, assaults, and other violence in the community.

CONECT leaders initiated a plan to challenge the bar’s liquor license and succeeded in getting the state Liquor Commissioner to conduct an investigation and initiate a formal hearing.

Governor of Virginia presents award to VOICE leaders

VOICE, with its success and proven track record, received the 2016 Governor’s Volunteerism and Community Service Award.
In August 2016, EBC celebrated the opening of Heckscher Playground -- a $2.5 Million renovation that included a new turf field, playground, bleachers, and adult exercise equipment.

After a year-long campaign, EBC leaders won funding to improve the recreational area in Bushwick. The renovation was completed less than two years after funding was received, several months ahead of schedule.

East Brooklyn Congregations won $2.5 Million for renovation of Heckscher Playground.

New Jersey Together won hundreds of millions in property tax relief for low-income residents.

After significant pressure from New Jersey Together, leaders successfully put an end to what amounts to the annual transfer of tens of millions of dollars in wealth from low-income communities and communities of color, to higher income communities in Jersey City.

New Jersey Together pressured Jersey City’s Mayor Fulop to proceed with the city’s property tax revaluation, halting the outpouring of wealth, which has totaled hundreds of millions of dollars in just the last five years alone.
In October 2016, following two actions, SBC leaders successfully pushed the NYC Parks Department to make scores of repairs to local parks, and commit to reopening a major park that had been shuttered for years.

**SBC Demanded the Parks Department cut back overgrown trees at E 158th St. where several assaults were reported**

**Dog Park at St. Mary’s Park**

**NEW YORK**

**SOUTH BRONX CHURCHES (SBC)**

In October 2016, following two actions, SBC leaders successfully pushed the NYC Parks Department to make scores of repairs to local parks, and commit to reopening a major park that had been shuttered for years.
BUILD teams in communities throughout Baltimore City organized to clean up parks, secure signage and bring recreation opportunities to youth.

- **DARLEY PARK**: Installation of $5,000 neighborhood sign as a result of first-ever MOU between a neighborhood in Baltimore and Dept. of Transportation (DOT); $4 Million gym opened after 4 years of organizing. It was the first new recreation center built in 30 years in Darley Park.

- **HARLEM PARK WEST**: Planted more than $1,200 in plants donated by Bell Nursery as part of lot transformation; Cleaned and cleared land to create a Community Walkthrough Theater.

- **IRVINGTON**: Secured $600,000 towards installation of athletic lights and field resurfacing.

- **JOHNSTON SQUARE**: Installed $150,000 worth of fencing and organized $15,000 in additional improvements and cleanup; Obtained $75,000 for cleaning up and renovating Ambrose Kennedy Park.

- **OLIVER**: Construction of a Kaboom Playground as result of partnership between BUILD and Target; Galvanized housing to decrease abandoned lots from 43% to under 16% in less than 10 years with median income increasing over 100%.