



2009 Generation Change Southern Internship Program Host Organization Profiles

The following organizations have agreed to invest in the next generation of community organizers by hosting a Generation Change intern who will work for ten weeks this summer gaining hand-on experience on important issues, such as immigration, healthcare, and worker justice/the economy.

NORTH CAROLINA

BELOVED COMMUNITY CENTER

Greensboro, NC • www.belovedcommunitycenter.org

The mission of the Beloved Community Center (BCC) of Greensboro is to foster and model a spirit of community based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a "Beloved Community." In this spirit, it envisions and works toward social and economic relations that affirm and realize the equality, dignity, worth and potential of every person.

Founded in 1991, the BCC has moved to pursuing the mission of building an inclusive, egalitarian community through involvement in community organizing, public meetings and protests and other forms of advocacy, as well as training and coalition building. The work of the Beloved Community Center is divided into eight inter-related working groups: Economic Justice, Education, Grassroots History, Homeless Hospitality, Jubilee Institute, Media, Communications & Art, Peace, and Truth and Reconciliation.

BLUEPRINT NORTH CAROLINA /NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE CENTER

Raleigh, NC • www.ncjustice.org

The Justice Center is North Carolina's leading anti-poverty organization. Its mission is to reduce and eliminate poverty in North Carolina by helping to ensure that every North Carolina household gains access to the resources, services and fair treatment that it needs in order to enjoy economic security. Founded in 1996 through the merger of two former Legal Services organizations, the Justice Center pursues its ambitious mission through four main strategies: litigation, research and analysis, public policy advocacy, and grassroots action. The Justice Center is also home to a number of well-known specialized projects, including the Budget and Tax Center, the Health Access Coalition, the Immigrants Legal Assistance Project, the Education and Law Project and the Consumer Action Network.

HELPING EMPOWER LOCAL PEOPLE

Charlotte, NC

Helping Empower Local People (H.E.L.P.) brings together, trains, and organizes the communities of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County across all religious, racial, ethnic, class and neighborhood lines for the public good. Core issues/campaigns include increasing youth employment opportunities; increasing funding for the housing code enforcement department; improving the quality of nursing homes and assisted living facilities; and increasing English language programming, citizenship classes, and voter registration for immigrants. H.E.L.P. recently worked with Katrina survivors, congregations, local government and agencies to secure a \$1 million commitment from the city government.

NC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Raleigh, NC • www.ncacdc.org

NCACDC's mission is to strengthen the North Carolina economy and create a better tomorrow for all North Carolinians by enhancing community development corporations (CDCs) in their role of creating prosperous communities for the long term. Core issues/campaigns include neighborhood stabilization which focuses on areas like foreclosure mitigation and community recovery; assessment and accountability; and innovation, research and development.

Over the last two years, NCACDC has provided an opportunity for 10 of its member organizations to pilot for North Carolina a nationally recognized state of the art outcome assessment tool and methodology for CDCs. NCACDC has been called upon to facilitate a discussion among other state associations as it relates to bridging capacity assessment work with that of outcome assessment work, as NC is the only state association currently engaged in both areas of assessment.

NORTH CAROLINA FAIRSHARE

Raleigh, NC • www.ncfairshare.org

Established in 1987, NC Fairshare is a statewide membership organization established to bring together people within communities impacted by issues of injustice in health care, the environment, economic justice and voting rights to work on their own behalf for solutions to these issues toward a fairer North Carolina.

North Carolina Fair Share is an individual membership and broad-based coalition (for specific issues) organization and is presently the state lead organization for the Health Care for America Now campaign.

North Carolina Fair Share organized and led the state Same Day Registration (SDR) Campaign and statewide (SDR) Coalition which won Same Day Registration at Early Voting Sites –the first voting rights legislation of this kind in the south on July 20, 2007. The past General Election provided 276,000 NC voters SDR at Early Voting Sites. This campaign has been selected as a model for other states throughout the region and country for SDR. NC Same Day Registration Coalition continues to work for full Election Day Registration for North Carolina.

TRIANGLE CAN

Durham, NC • www.durhamcan.org

Triangle CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhood) is a multi-racial, multi-faith, strictly non-partisan countrywide citizens' organization. CAN is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest national, congregation-based, community organizing network in the United States. Triangle CAN is an organization made of several diverse organizations. CAN is dedicated to building relationships across race, social and religious lines; identifying common concerns; and developing the skills of leaders inside member institutions; and acting together for the common good. CAN leaders translate deeply felt concerns into real innovative solutions that benefit the whole community.

Currently, CAN is focusing on an Economic Justice Campaign that seeks accountability from economic power brokers, the financial services and mortgage/real estate sectors, and government regulators. The Campaign also seeks to develop program and policy options that build and stabilize individual households and generate safe and living wage jobs for all.

TENNESSEE

MID-SOUTH PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

Memphis, TN • www.midsouthpeace.org

The Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, formed on January 15, 1982, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., seeks to further the legacies of nonviolence left by past peacemakers such as Dr. King, Mahatma Gandhi and Dorothy Day. Their existence has been prompted by the chronic problems of social and economic injustice prevalent in the South, especially in Memphis. For the past twenty-six years, the Center has been committed to the mission of developing communities of peace, social justice and human rights through education and nonviolent action. Current 5 Programs and Campaigns include: the Gandhi-King Conference on Peacemaking, Alternatives to the Military Project, Grow Memphis Urban Gardens, Coalition Against Private Prisons (CAPP), Food Not Bombs, Community Voices Media Project, and Peace Committee.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE JOBS WITH JUSTICE

Nashville, TN • www.jwj.org

National Jobs with Justice was founded in 1987 with the vision of lifting up workers' rights struggles as part of a larger campaign for social and economic justice through long-term, multi-issue coalition building, constituency building, and organizing direct action. Mid-TN Jobs with Justice shares the same vision. Mid-TN Jobs with Justice organizes people by involving the organizations that represent them – unions, congregations, and community organizations, as well as direct individual member/activities. Mid-TN Jobs with Justice is currently working on a Campaign for Living Wages as well as engaging in Low Wage Worker Rights Organizing. Mid-TN Jobs with Justice is a coordinating member of the Nashville Movement.

NASHVILLE URBAN EPICENTER

Nashville, TN • www.urbanepicenter.org

The Urban EpiCenter (the Epicenter) was founded in August of 2007 with the support of Keith Caldwell and Sekou Franklin, Ph.D. It is a multi-racial, grassroots organization in Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee. The Urban EpiCenter believes that community organizing and direct action for racial and economic justice should be the focal points of social and political activity in Nashville. Further, it believes in a radical vision of democracy, which situates indigenous activists and poor and working-class people at the center (or EpiCenter) of grassroots initiatives. Urban Epicenter works on the following issues: living wages, voter registration, education, & mobilization, grassroots actions, lifting up indigenous activists, healthcare, and more.

TENNESSEE CITIZEN ACTION

Nashville, TN • www.tnca.org

TNCA is grassroots citizen group seeking to build a unified movement for reform in Tennessee. TNCA works to create long-term political change by building diverse coalitions around their major issues. They actively work in coalition with a range of health care, environmental, government reform, and labor organizations. Currently, TNCA is working on state policies concerning long-term care and predatory lending, and they are also an anchor steering committee partner with Health Care for America Now.

TENNESSEE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS COALITION

Nashville, TN • www.tnimmigrant.org

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) is a state-wide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are viewed as positive contributors to the state. Current focus areas include grassroots policy change, defense of civil liberties and civil rights, grassroots leadership development, and public awareness. TIRRC is a coordinating member of the Nashville Movement.

WORKERS INTERFAITH NETWORK

Memphis, TN • www.workersinterfaithnetwork.org

Workers Interfaith Network (WIN) is a movement of people of faith, low-wage workers, and workers allies who organize to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for workers especially low-wage workers, in the Mid-South Tennessee area. Currently, WIN's primary issue is wage theft, and their Workers' Center utilizes negotiation with employers, direct action, and legal assistance to enable workers to recover their unpaid wages. Their Workers' Center also works with workers who have not received adequate workers compensation after an injury or have experienced discrimination in the workplace. WIN is a part of a national wage theft campaign that is seeking to increase the Department of Labor's resources for investigating and penalizing wage theft. In addition, WIN works on living wage and right to organize campaigns as well.