

THE WASHINGTON PEACE CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2010-APRIL 2011

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The Washington Peace Center provides education, resources and action for those working for positive social change and a world free from oppression.

We strengthen the impact of the peace and justice movements by
(1) fostering greater collaboration among activist groups
(2) bridging the gap between global, national & local issues and communities, and
(3) providing the material support to achieve these goals.
Based in Washington, DC, we have been working to achieve peace and social justice since 1963.



Building Our Movement:

We strive to increase the coordination and collaboration among DC area groups, as well as with national groups who come to DC for actions. With that in mind, we:

- Hosted a workshop at the US Social Forum addressing how national organizing can better support local communities and created a “best practices” document for use in the DC area in order to build better relationships between local and national groups.
- Continued to work with the DC Social Forum to host a report-back from the US Social Forum, build community media together and finalize our “People’s Agenda” from the 2010 DC People’s Assembly.
- Served as the local DC contact for the Peace Table portion of the multi-issue mobilization, One Nation Working Together, connecting the national peace activists calling to cut the military budget to fund local communities with local DC groups.
- Coordinated the Iraq Anniversary action week, meeting with delegates from all the involved organizations, coordinating outreach and media plans and hosting the communal calendar on our website.
- Hosted our sixth annual Activist Awards Grassroots Gala, where we honored ten outstanding local activists and threw a party for the over 300 members of our community that attended.



Peace Table feeder march at One Nation Working Together

Thanks for all the work that you do. I've been active in Washington DC for close to 20 years now and this is the best I've seen the Peace Center in terms of usefulness and support it provides to those fighting for social justice in the area.

- Rami Elamine, Left Turn Magazine, 1/14/11



All the Tools We Need to Change the World:

We offer resources for the DC peace and justice community to strengthen the local movement and make every action here more effective and efficient. We:

- Expanded and updated our online Resource Guide which provides essential information on how to organize in DC.
- Advised local and national groups on logistics for mobilizations and events
- Lent our (upgraded!) sound systems, bullhorns and stages for over 30 actions in 2010. Organizations included: DC Jobs with Justice, Insittue for Policy Studies, Empower DC, CISPES, WPFW and many more.
- Provided fiscal sponsorship for 30 smaller groups, providing a vital service to organizations without 501(c)(3) status. Groups include: Civilian-Soldier Alliance, Witness Against Torture and Girls Rock! DC.
- Continued to keep our online calendar updated and comprehensive, providing the community with one central location to find out what’s happening in progressive DC/MD/VA.
- Provided discounted photocopies for thousands of paper, flyers and full-color posters.



Iraq Veterans Against the War announcing their new campaign, Operation Recovery, using our smaller sound system.

I write to thank you for your support of our events last week. Our concert and rally at the White House went off without a hitch, and we couldn't have done it without your help.

- Michael Baney, School of the Americas Watch, 4/20/11



Educate and Activate:

Education is one of the necessary strategies for creating a more peaceful and just world. We provide a combination of political education on timely topics and skills-based trainings to develop the leaders of tomorrow. This year, we:

- Published two issues of the Peace Letter, discussing the True Costs of War and looking back on 20 years of US intervention in Iraq.
- Hosted an Iraq Anniversary forum addressing the over-inflated military budget and its impact on DC local budget cuts, building connections among local and national activists on this important and inter-related issue.
- Provided skills-based trainings for local activists on an on-going basis. Topics include using social media for organizing and fundraising, how to make outreach posters with no art skills and how to utilize traditional media effectively.



Linda Leaks of Empower DC discusses the impact of the military budget on housing cuts in DC at WPC forum.

The panel was a very comprehensive conversation regarding the domestic problems war causes. As I stated, I was very impressed with the way in which the panel was organized prior to participation.

- Aiyi'nah Ford, Save Our Safety Net re 3/19/11 event

Inside WPC...

We know we can only be effective peace builders if our organization is sustainable and productive internally as well. Here's what's been happening to make us strong and stable!

- Embarked on a strategic planning process with the help of a wonderful volunteer consultant from Greater DC Cares in order to focus and guide our work for the coming years.
- Met annually with our Advisory Council, a network of impressive leaders and allies who gave us feedback and input into our work and goals.
- Worked with the Lutheran Volunteer Corp, who supported our Organizing Fellow position, allowing us to have two full-time staff for the first time in five years.
- Expanded our Volunteer Engagement Project. In 2010 we had over 2700 countable volunteer hours! This included local activists, community service volunteers and students in local universities.
- We've expanded our membership lists and online presence. Our email listserv grew 31%, our Twitter and Facebook followers both grew over 200% and our website hits went up 70%.

...Inside WPC



WPC Staff and Interns rally against mountaintop removal.

"Volunteering at WPC not only allows you to participate in the front lines of the movement, but also introduces you to passionate folks in the community that help you turn your own ideas into action."

-Savannah Felix, Nov 2010

Who We Are:

2010-2011 Coordinating Board (Organizational affiliation for identification purposes.)

Pedro Cruz, Trabajadores de Washington DC and DC Jobs with Justice (former)
Robby Diesu, Civilian-Soldier Alliance and CUAllies
Jay Forth, Jubilee Jobs, Friends Meeting House of Washington
Bette Hoover, Just Peace Circles and American Friends Service Committee (former)
Lacy MacAuley, Institute for Policy Studies, Massey Media (former)
Paul Magno, Witness for Peace, Witness Against Torture, the Catholic Worker Bookstore.
David Thurston, DC Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Metro D.C. Interfaith Sanctuary Network
Jane Zara, Empower DC and DC Metro Science for the People

Our deepest thanks!

Board members who stepped down in the past year:
Alexis Baden-Meyer,
Chantelle Bateman,
Virginia Leavell.

Staff:

Director: Sonia Silbert
Organizing Fellow: Hieraald Kane-Osorto

Interns: Jon Berger, Hazal Yogla, Maya Colbert, Ramah Kudaimi, Amy McDonald, Emily Loranger, Sarah Dobson, Ben King, Jason Trader. **Special thanks** to Michelle Florence, Shelly Gardeniers and Anna Woodbury, volunteers extraordinaire!

2010 Finances...

Income:

Individual Donations	\$31,720
Grants	\$32,450
Program Revenue	\$6,681
Fiscal Sponsees' Donations	\$45,340
Misc	\$155
Total	\$108,272
TOTAL without fiscal spons.	\$71,006

... 2010 Finances

Expenses:

Education/Programs (direct costs)	\$6,095
Personnel (total)	\$46,859
Overhead	\$14,970
Fundraising	\$1,699
Fiscal Sponsees' Disbursements	\$52,335
Misc	\$39
Total	\$121,997
TOTAL without fiscal spons.	\$69,662