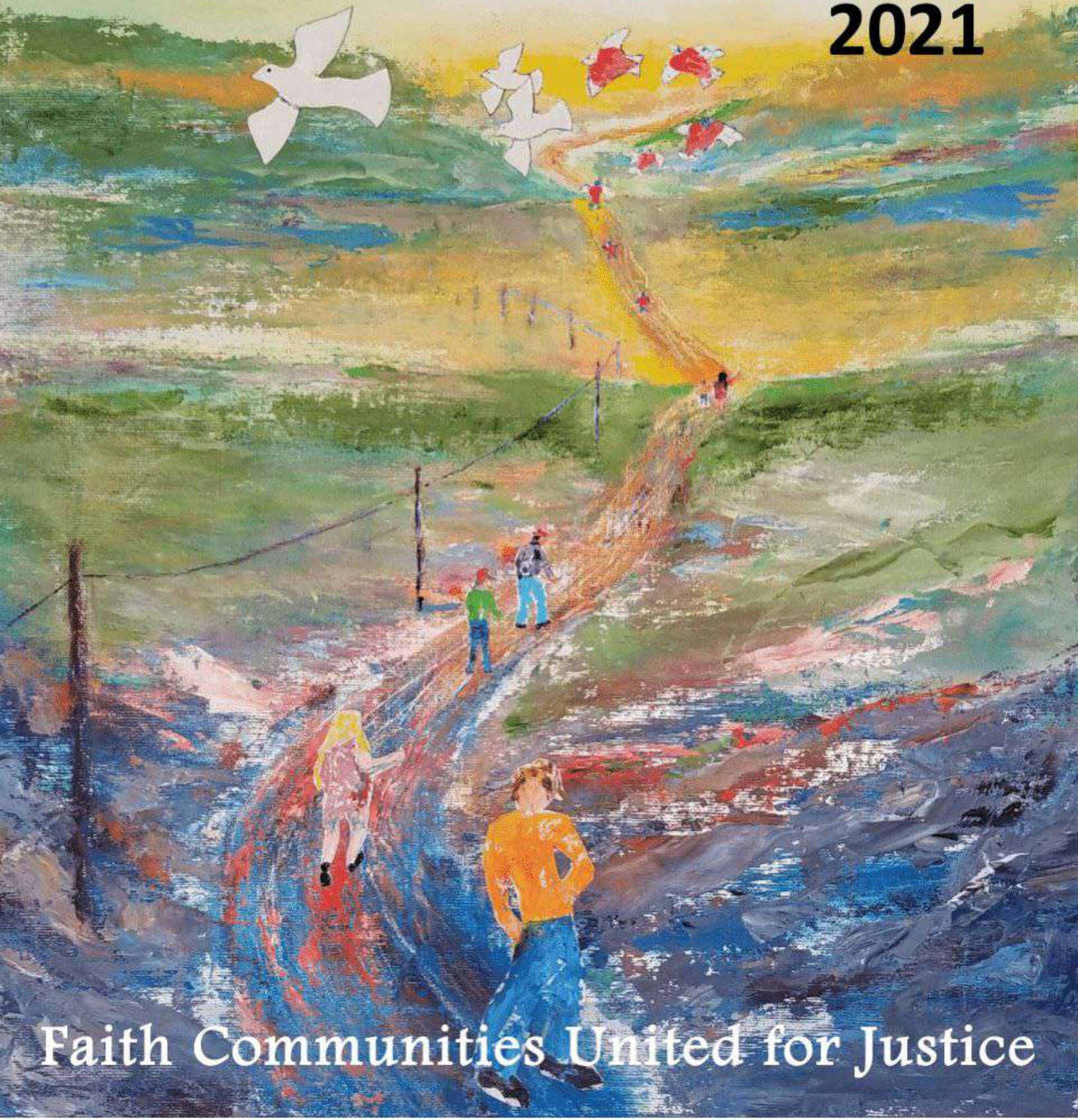


Building Community – Sharing Hope – Standing for Justice

ESTHER

2021



Faith Communities United for Justice



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Lutheran
Church in America

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six: eight. DO JUSTICE
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Appleton Conference East Central Synod of Wisconsin

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Our Saviour's
Prince of Peace
Trinity
Zion

Combined Locks:

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St Mark's
St. Paul

New London:

Trinity

Menasha:

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Sherwood:

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Winchester:

Grace

Winneconne:

Lord of the Lakes

Zittau:

Immanuel

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2020-2021 Yearbook

ESTHER*
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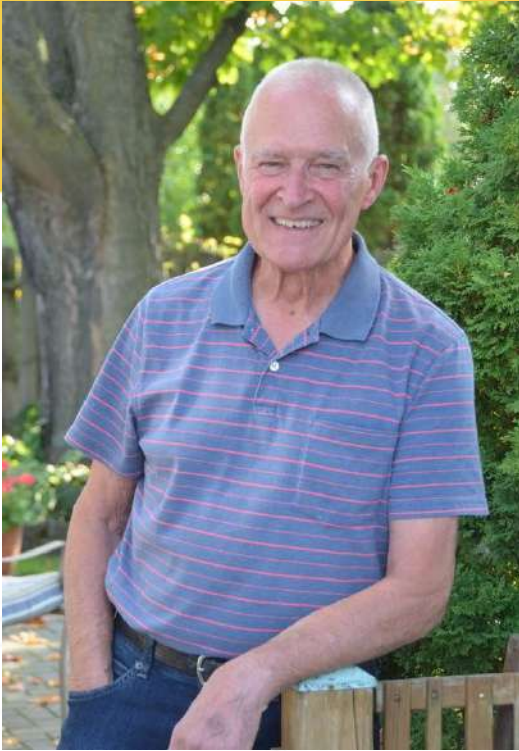
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*ESTHER is an affiliate of the WISDOM network

Letter from the President



Gary Crevier, ESTHER President

Photo by Karen Klenke

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because I get to work with so many fine people in creating the beloved community.
 — Penny Robinson

Members, Beloved ESTHER Friends, & Neighbors,

While marching in a recent Black Lives Matter demonstration on College Avenue in downtown Appleton, I looked down and saw a shiny nail begging me to pick it up.

As I now hold it in my hands weeks later, I realize how desperately it speaks out to me, to ESTHER, and to all of humanity. A small, insignificant nail, easily associated with suffering, cried out in the middle of that march, reminding me again of the 400 years of racism that people of color have endured — and still do today — throughout our society.

The majority of people most impacted, directly or indirectly, by the issues that ESTHER task forces and committees address are people of color.

Equity and racial justice is a fundamental objective to the work of ESTHER.

Just as powerful, that nail symbolizes our invitation to build anew, constructing an anti-racist community on a foundation of humility, respect, and courage.

Come join us.

Gary Crevier, ESTHER President

Sikh Temple of Fox Valley



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Letter from the Organizer

Dear Friends of ESTHER,



Bill Van Lopik, ESTHER Organizer

Photo by Karen Klenke

This year has been like no other. If you had told me a year ago that ESTHER would have to suspend all in-person meetings for a year, I would have questioned our organizational survivability. Meeting in groups is what community organizing is all about. However, I have learned not to doubt the resiliency of those committed to social justice, because ESTHER is as strong as ever.

New task forces have formed, meetings go on virtually, new people have joined us, donations keep coming in and we have pivoted to new virtual strategies for community organizing. In spite of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, there is a palpable urgency among people to act and respond to the racial inequities that have reached a boiling point; people want to respond to the political turmoil that has ripped our country apart; people want to voice their concerns regarding the deteriorating environment that continues to reduce the habitability of our planet.

I am very hopeful about our future, because much like the Queen Esther (Esther 4:14) the people in this organization believe that we are here “for such a time as this.”

Peace,
Bill Van Lopik, ESTHER Community Organizer

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because I have met many people from different faith communities who share in the common goal of addressing system economic and social injustices. Together we are making a difference.
— Diane Putzer



A Mother's Story



Elizabeth's first free bus ride to school.

By Joyce Frohn

My daughter was in fifth grade when ESTHER started its transportation equity work. She's 17 now.

The bus company sent us to the city council, the city council sent us to the school board, and back around. We had charts and graphs illustrating the issue, testified at school board meetings and nothing happened. One more city council meeting, I was going to speak and my daughter decided she was going to as well. I told about how hard it was getting word on short notice, and hunting for those four quarters.

When I sat down, my daughter stepped up.

Her words were blunt. She told about kids begging for bus tokens and loan sharks in high school.

The chairman said, "Whatever happens, I promise you will get a bus pass."

"If you give me a pass, get them for my friends as well."

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because we are faith in action. Together, we don't just talk, we work to get changes accomplished.
— Deb Martin

Oshkosh City Council approves free busing for all Oshkosh students

Jill Smith

After seven years of lobbying, raising money and attending city council meetings, our Oshkosh ESTHER Task Force successfully petitioned to allow all Oshkosh students to ride the bus to and from school for free, effective July 2020.

This is a huge win for the Oshkosh community.

Prior to July, all bus riders were required to pay \$1.50 for each ride which meant that a family with three children who attend school used to have to pay \$45 for bus fare every week.

So, a big "Thank You" goes out to our Oshkosh task force members. Thank you for your vision, your will, and your persistence. Thank you for making our little part of the world a better place.

ESTHER Leadership Board Members October 2020

President:

Gary Crevier

Vice President:

C. Jo Phillip

Treasurer:

Mary Bissing-Olson

Secretary:

Nancy Jones

Yolanda Bedolla-Rios

Cindy Carter

Sara Companik

Terry Dawson

Dave Fink

Joyce Frohn

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Mimi Maki

Fr. Joe Mattern

Diane Putzer

Angela Pynenberg

Connie Raether

Penny Robinson

Hannah Schmidt

Jill Smith

Robert Zeegers

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because it is full of people who back up their beliefs with their time, money, energy, dedication and hard work.
— Mary Bissing-Olson

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Featured above, three of our very own Graduates! These women represent Strength, Courage, and Empowerment. Following in their footsteps, our current families are working effectively and creatively to accomplish what they have set out to do!

So far this year, our families have: graduated from school, opened businesses, bought cars, paid down debt, worked on budgeting, continued/started attending school, increased credit scores, built resumes, opened savings accounts, obtained licenses, obtained employment, and looked into homeownership, all while homeschooling their children for the first time!

Our families will never have to stop in their tracks when they need us the most! The AHA will continue to deliver our resources and help keep them going! Not even a pandemic can stop our families from achieving their dreams.

Workshops through New Virtual Series!

- Stress Management
- Parenting Tough Temperaments
- Social Media and Employment
- BeYOUtiful: Inhale Confidence, Exhale Doubt
- Watch out: Predatory Lending
- Transportation Options
- ACEs and Resiliency
- Map Your Money Journey
- Money Talks/All about Budgeting
- Student Loans and Repayment
- Debt and Credit Repair
- Organization 101

We are working to create a better future for low-income families in our community! You can help by sending your tax-deductible donations to Neighborhood Housing, Inc. (a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit), at 925 W. Northland Ave., Appleton, WI 54914. Together, we can make a real difference. Thank you for your support!

For more information about the FSS Program, contact Danielle Koepke at (920) 739-6811 ext. 113 or DanielleK@appletonhousing.org

Who are we?

By David Haas

The members of ESTHER share a commitment to the pursuit of social justice through systemic change.

We pursue justice in many ways, because there are many forms of injustice. Mass incarceration is unjust, and our Prison Reform Task Force works to eliminate it. Forcing some social groups to bear an unfair share of the burden of environmental destruction is unjust, and our Environmental Justice Task force works to set right such unfairness. Exploitation and imprisonment of immigrants is unjust, and our Immigration Task Force works to make the U.S. immigration system more just.

Why I love ESTHER. . .Because now is the time for action and community. We live out our faith.
— Joyce Frohn

We are not alone.

ESTHER is a part of the network of [WISDOM](#), a statewide organization, and of [The GAMALIEL Network](#), an international organization. We are strengthened by the strength of our associates in the struggle for justice. We know that our work will continue beyond our lifetimes, and we remember the rabbinic saying, "You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Our Mission Statement:

Develop leaders, engage people, and build collective power in the Fox Valley to address systemic economic and social injustices and work for more equitable communities that embrace diversity.

Catholics Serving The Needs Of Others In The Spirit Of Dorothy Day



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What do we believe?

By Penny Robinson and Gwendolyn Gibson

Anti-racism is a life-long process.

Recognizing that we have been born into and live in a nation permeated with systemic racism, ESTHER has committed to becoming an antiracist organization. Members focus on doing no harm and following the lead of those impacted by injustice and oppression. The Equity and Racial Justice Committee leads us to **unlearn our biases** and change policies that undergird racist systems. Our work this past year includes:

Commitment

We added the following individual pledge to our Leadership Board Agreement: “Racial justice is fundamental to our work...”

Education

We held guided, inclusive online meetings to study *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Three members participated in the Intercultural Development Inventory (more information at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/idi>).

As an organization, we viewed the PBS video series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*

Uplifting and Supporting Underrepresented Leaders

Transferred leadership of ESTHER’s Immigration Task Force to two immigrant co-chairs. Supported a new Mental Health Task Force, created and led by two Indigenous co-chairs. Supported a local African American organizer in holding a Martin Luther King Jr. Community Awards celebration.

Relationships & Partnerships With Diverse Organizations

Voces de la Frontera
Black Lives Matter
Menikānaehkem (Community Rebuilders, an Indigenous group reestablishing cultural practices)
Circles of Support
ACLU of Wisconsin

Local Racial Justice

Planned a meeting with Grand Chute Police Chief Peterson
Participated in local Black Lives Matter marches.
Sought the sponsorship of local minority-owned businesses in the publishing of ESTHER’s Annual Program Book.

A City of Appleton Public Service Announcement

This message is to remind our Fox Valley citizens that the City of Appleton is one of nine municipalities as well as many other organizations in Wisconsin to recognize that **racism is a public health crisis**.

In May 2018, the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) passed a [resolution](#) declaring that racism is a public health crisis in Wisconsin and committed itself to taking action. **In 2019, the City of Appleton signed on to this resolution.**

We support ESTHER's social justice work and encourage citizens to participate in ESTHER's continued education on racism, guided by its Equity and Racial Justice Committee.

Karen Nelson, EMBA

(Pronouns: she, her, hers)

Diversity & Inclusion in the Office of the Mayor for The City of Appleton

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Racism Declared a Public Health Crisis in The City of Appleton

Date Submitted to the
Common Council:
December 18, 2019
Action: Referred to the
Board of Health (BOH)

Presented as a BOH
Information Item –
January 8, 2020
BOH voted to recommend
for approval to the Council-
February 12, 2020

Date Approved by the
Common Council:
Feb 19th, 2020

**G.A.R.E. = Government
Alliance on Race and Equity**

Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Supporting the Wisconsin Public Health Associations Campaign Against Racism and Recognizing Racism as a Public Health Crisis:

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton recognizes that race is a social constraint and long-standing institutional and structural bias have resulted in racial inequities that impact individual and population health, social, economical and educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton has, for more than two decades, supported a position, currently titled, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, to promote racial equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton, in December 2018, approved a Health in All Policies ordinance which guides the City on how to address the social determinants of health, or the root causes of current health disparities in the development, prioritization and delivery of these services and policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton, in March 2019, joined the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Wisconsin learning community to advance racial equity by addressing institutional and structural racism; and

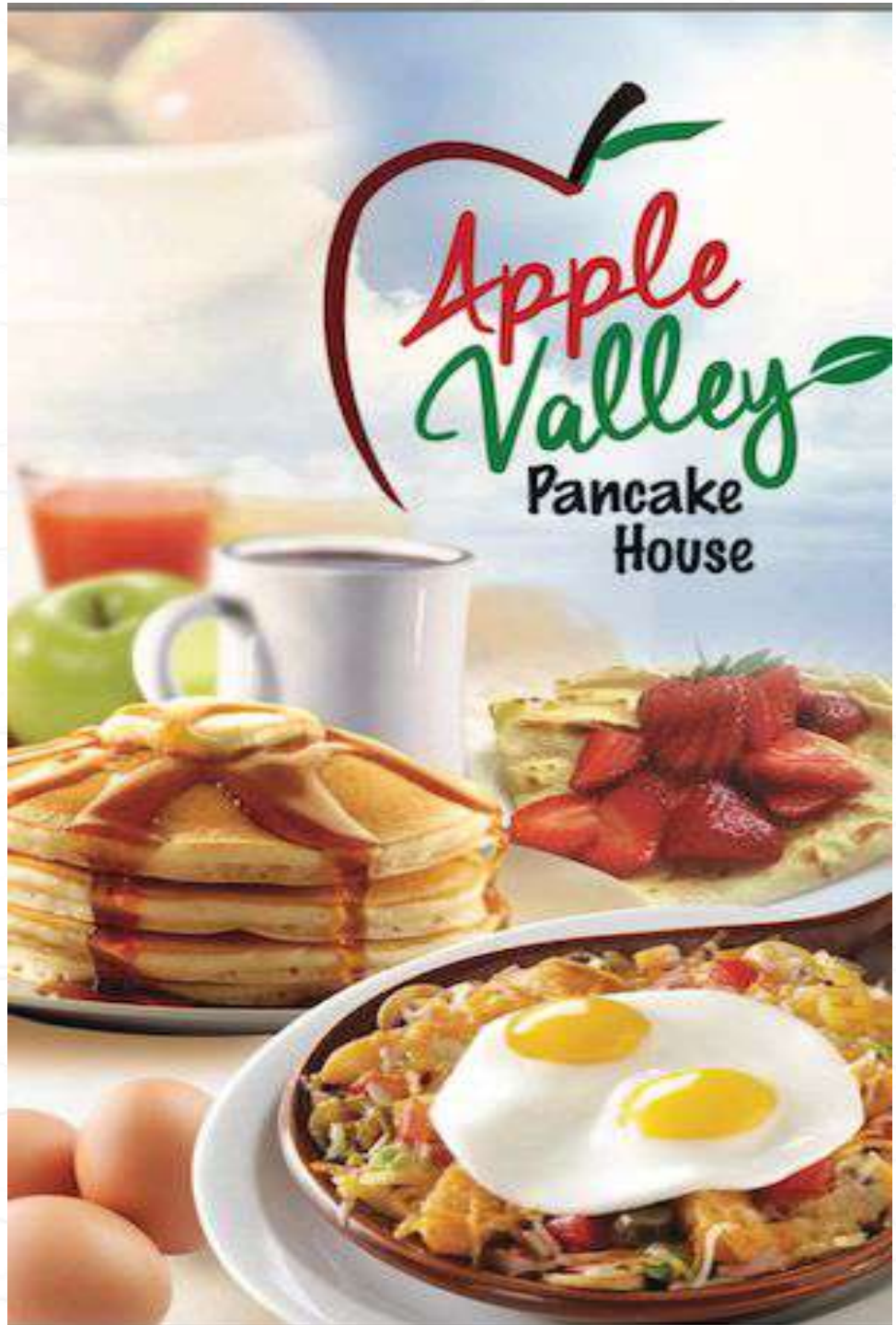
WHEREAS, in November 2019, the Appleton Health Department signed on to the WPHA dedication that Racism is a Public Health Crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is committed to continuing to: using racial equity and social justice tools to assess new policies, procedures and projects; partnering with racial equity education organizations; review hiring practices with a racial equity lens; and including community voices in City planning process as our commitment to undoing institutional structural racism;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Common Council acknowledge that racism is a public health crisis and, as a commitment to our past and future efforts, agrees to sign on to the WPHA Declaration that Racism is a Public Health Crisis.

Faith communities, non-profits and agencies that have partnered with ESTHER in the past year include:

- ACLU of Wisconsin
 - Appleton Public Library
 - The Avenue 91.1
 - B'nai Israel Congregation
 - Casa Esther Catholic Worker House, Omro
 - Circles of Support
 - City of Appleton Office of Diversity and Inclusion
 - East Central Regional Planning Commission
 - Emmanuel United Methodist, Appleton
 - Emmaus Ecumenical Catholic Community of Oshkosh
 - EXPO (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing), Fox Valley
 - First Congregational UCC, Appleton,
 - First English Lutheran, Appleton
 - Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Association, Appleton
 - Helios Recovery Services
 - Lawrence University
 - Memorial Presbyterian Church, Appleton
 - Menasha Public Library
 - Menikānaehkem
 - Native Justice Coalition
- (contd. on next page)



Faith Communities, non-profits and agencies that have partnered with ESTHER, continued

- Outagamie County Health Department
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Appleton
- Religious Society of Friends, Oshkosh
- Sacred Heart Catholic, Appleton
- St. Bernard Catholic Church, Appleton
- St. Gabriel Catholic Church, Neenah
- St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Neenah
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah
- St. Patrick Catholic Parish, Menasha
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah
- St. Therese Catholic Church, Appleton
- St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Appleton
- Voces de la Frontera
- Winnebago County Health Department
- Weidert Group, Inc.
- Winnebago Worship Group - Neenah

Special thanks to Weidert Group, Inc., for their invaluable assistance in the preparation of this book.



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Come join us!

Want to be More Involved in ESTHER's work? Come and See:

All who are interested in the issues we focus on are welcome to participate in or observe task force meetings! (At present, we meet via Zoom teleconference.)

If you have a heart for justice, or if any of the issues we work to address have affected your life or a loved one's, we invite you to join us! All are welcome. Request your Zoom invitation using the links below.

Prison Reform

1st Mondays, 6:00 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/prtf

Oshkosh ESTHER

Tuesdays, 4:00 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/oetf

Mental Health

2nd Mondays, 6:00 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/mhtf

Immigration

2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/itf

Transportation

3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/pttf

Environmental Justice

4th Tuesdays, 7:00 PM, Zoom invite at
esther-foxvalley.org/ejtf

Prison Reform Task Force: Jail tour, awareness, initiatives and progress.



Co-Chairperson
Lisa Hanneman



Co-Chairperson
Rob Zeegers

By Jill Smith

This article was the final one submitted for publication in this year's ESTHER report. Why? Because Lisa Hanneman is a stickler for the facts, and needed to wait until she could verify its content with a tour of the Outagamie County Jail.

You see, prison reform work is arduous, complicated and can be difficult to define. Our group finds conditions and systems in prisons and jails that could use improvement, and acts upon them. Some of our members get together twice a month. Here is a summary of what Prison Reform Task Force members worked on this year:

- Joshua Hopkins, an Outagamie County Behavioral Health officer, introduced us to his work to manage the program SAFE (Safety Alert Flag Program). It is a proactive approach that collects information from community members who may have behavioral health illnesses. This information can then be used by first responders to properly respond to these same citizens when they are in crisis. To be clear, the goal of this program is to keep individuals from being inappropriately placed in the criminal justice system, and more appropriately, given the opportunity to address their immediate mental health needs. The task force supports Officer Hopkins in his work and will attend county review meetings on his behalf.
- Rob Zeegers led a group of task force members who met at Houdini Plaza over the noon hour on Thursdays this summer. All participants held signs which read, "Reform Wisconsin Prisons," "Education not Incarceration," and "Prison Reform = Healthy Communities." The group answered questions and passed out information.

(article continued on next page)

Why I love ESTHER. . ESTHER has been steadfast in working for equality and justice since 2004. That's why I love ESTHER.
— Gwen Gibson

Prison Reform Task Force: Jail tour, awareness, initiatives and progress article, *continued*

- Yard signs were also designed and distributed throughout the Fox Valley.
- Currently a coalition is working to educate jailed inmates about their voting rights, and asking county sheriffs to provide means for these inmates to vote in the upcoming election. People housed in jails who are not sentenced have the right to vote.
- Our task force collaborated with ACLU of Wisconsin to lobby in Madison this winter to educate legislators about the severity of probationary rules that return many people back to prison. Many people in Wisconsin return to prison because of a probation violation and not because they committed another crime. Crimeless revocation violations are a big reason why Wisconsin has a higher prison population than other states.
- This summer, a statewide caravan of concerned citizens drove to the capital and to Gov. Evers' home, requesting the release of prisoners who have only six months left of their sentence. Reducing the prison population in this way will improve overcrowded conditions, which in turn can protect prisoners and prison guards from COVID-19 potential infection.

So, what did Lisa see at the jail?

She saw improvements in the basic care of our jailed inmates. In 2018, Outagamie County Jail made a commitment to become accredited with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC). This organization recommends best practices to meet professional, legal and ethical requirements in delivering correctional health care services. **Because of the task force's initial ask for better care**, the jail is on target for completion of this accreditation by the end of 2021.

Our jail will soon provide a psychiatrist who will prescribe medications on-site, as well as dentists who will serve inmates in an onsite dental suite. A dental suite! We believe this is a win for all. It is a win for staff at the jail, for the incarcerated, for family members and for our community.

Prison Reform = Healthy Communities!



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Photo Credit: Dutcher Photography

Immigration Task Force



Co-Chair
Yolanda-Bedolla

Photo by Karen Klenke

By Nancy Bourassa

Just one year ago, ESTHER's Immigration Task Force was actively, passionately working on a number of critical initiatives:

- Drivers' cards or licenses for undocumented people in our state,
- Preparing for individual members and ESTHER churches to sponsor asylum seekers
- Working with a local farm worker who had been physically assaulted by his employer
- Monitoring anti-sanctuary city bills in the state Legislature
- Receiving and sharing in-person reports from people who had gone to the border and witnessed firsthand the experiences of immigrants coming across
- Supporting efforts from affiliates in Wisconsin that work with people in detention centers
- Beginning plans for the national election, with the Democratic Convention happening in Milwaukee



Co-Chair Melissa
Gaudin-Hughes

Census workers sought our help in persuading our Hispanic members to fill out their census forms. Nationally, we were watching DACA in the Supreme Court and children in detention, and we also kept vigilant for any anti-immigration bills in Congress that would require organizing attention.

March and COVID-19 changed our focus and how we would need to work together. It became apparent fairly quickly that many of our immigrant businesses, workers, and families were being negatively impacted. When stimulus checks came out, we *(article continued on next page)*

Why I love ESTHER. . . Like minds, thinking alike for positive improvement in our community.
— Lisa Hanneman

BreatheFree, Inc

<https://www.breathefree.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/breathefree.us>

Education, Community Resources, Immigrant Voice (Est. 2018)

Our mission is to empower NE Wisconsin residents with refugee or other immigrant backgrounds, so they can thrive in the communities they now call home—we all call home.

Appleton Main: 1410 E. Pershing St., Appleton, WI 54911
Oshkosh Outreach: 400 N Sawyer St c/o ZLC, Oshkosh, WI 54902
+1 (833) 417-9334 | info@breathefree.us



Immigration Task Force, *continued*

quickly saw that our undocumented neighbors would not receive any help from the government, and we worked with Casa Esther to set up a way to donate funds so that those in need could apply for help. Meetings became virtual – but as a result, we actually got to see the faces of affiliate members from other areas. Sharing of ideas around the state to help our most needy immigrants actually grew. Nationally, some task force members began planning and participating in prayer vigils, and planning for the election and national conventions.

While COVID-19, lockdown, and quarantine have become watchwords of our lives, our immigration work continues. Our most recent concern includes helping Spanish-speaking parents struggling to help their kids achieve and succeed in their virtual classes. How can we work with schools to help improve the transition to online schooling? The needs of our immigrant population shift and change, but we continue in our efforts to serve, and to offset negatives with some positive impacts on their lives.



Pax Christi Fox Valley

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in its

Mission of Doing Justice

Round-table discussions are held at the Casa Esther Catholic Worker House on the second Thursday of each month at 9am. The themes center around peace-making and doing justice.

If interested in attending call 920-685-0315

Voices of Hope

By Kris Clouthier

“Voices of Hope” is a reader’s theatre presentation that brings to life the stories of immigrants living in the Fox Valley through prose, poetry and music. The presentation helps the community identify with immigrants and understand the reasons why many endure traumatic journeys to come to America. This experience shares the moral and legal issues associated with immigration and forces us to take a stand.

Due to the limitation of presenting in person, our presentation is now available on video for Zoom meetings of your organization. Contact the ESTHER office to learn more about how you can host **Voices of Hope**.

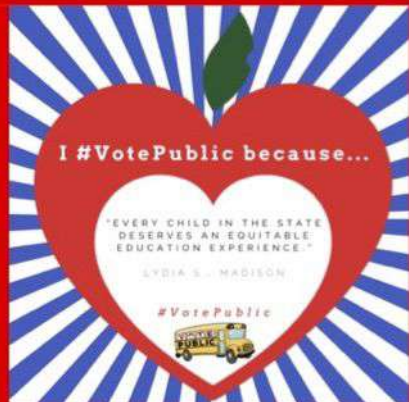
The “Walk in our Shoes” Latinx simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live as a typical Latinx in our community. The object is for participants to become aware of the realities faced by area Latinx, to combat myths associated with the immigrant population and to promote cross-cultural understanding, awareness and empathy.

The two and one half hour program includes an introduction, a short video, the actual simulation and allotted time available for discussion and debriefing. Due to the virus, our simulation is presently on hold.



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ESTHER Oshkosh



Oshkosh ESTHER team

A Note From Jennifer Considine, ESTHER–Oshkosh Chair

I am delighted to celebrate that all children attending Oshkosh public schools can ride city buses for free today. This policy change shows what can happen when people join together to make their community more inclusive and accessible.

We are facing the pandemics of racism and COVID-19, with some of us bearing the burden of these crises so much more deeply than others, and we need community now more than ever. When our Oshkosh ESTHER team meets, we share our individual efforts:

- To get out the vote
- To protest racial injustice and rally for police reform
- To bring food to the hungry
- To provide a cooling shelter for those experiencing homelessness
- To advocate for fairer hiring practices in our local community

We are reminded that we are not fighting injustice alone and it gives us the energy to keep fighting, to do better, and to create a more just and equitable world.

Please come join our community.

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because its members defy stereotypes, bridge divides, endeavor for meaningful change, and do the personal work to become better individuals so that together, we can become a better community.
— Jo Phillip



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Transit Task Force



Chairperson Connie Kanitz

Photo by Karen Klenke

Better Transit, Stronger Communities

By Connie Kanitz

ESTHER's Transit Task Force works to improve our transportation system so everyone can find transportation choices that work for them. Accessible, affordable, and efficient choices are needed to get to destinations. As personal car use does not work for everyone, so our communities need infrastructure and investments for public transit, biking and walking to achieve a healthy transportation system.

Transit Task Force's Highlights from this year:

- Met regularly with the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT), a partner advocacy organization, to develop statewide strategies.
- Planned and/or participated in Fox Cities' activities: February 4, "Transit Equity Day," April 16 "Get On-Board Day," and in August, the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Arranged for donations of 50+ masks to Valley Transit staff and riders.
- On July 11, presented a two-hour, 35-participant training with a focus on transportation for WISDOM's "Summer of Solidarity" Zoom sessions.
- Shared stories of unmet bus riders, graduates, employers, seniors, and other residents who want to make use of public transit.

An important focus for next year will be increasing awareness of the necessity of public transit, and advocating for the investments needed to support it.

We are also members of the Fox Valley Thrives Transportation Group. It is a unique coalition of planners, organizers, and public health workers who meet monthly to talk about area mobility issues.

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Mental Health Task Force

By Hannah P. Schmidt



Co-Chairperson
Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love the passion of the members of ESTHER and their dedication to social justice.
— Christine Calhoun

ESTHER embarks on the second year of the **Mental Health Task Force**, chaired by Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts. The task force has grown partnerships, offered training, supported the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirits Movement (MMIWG&2S), and contributed to fearless first aid operations at the George Floyd Memorial Site.

A MMIWG&2S Vigil was held at Houdini Plaza in Appleton, with State Representative Amanda Stuck, Kristin Welch, and Renee Gralewicz as keynote speakers. The event called for action on Assembly Bill 548 and Senate Bill 493. The bills would create a MMIW task force to identify systemic causes of violence against Native women and propose policies and procedures to mitigate the crisis. ESTHER members attended the Assembly Hearing addressing Bill 548, as allies to testify and provide support. Since then, the Department of Justice has announced the members of the official MMIW State Task Force. This effort involved the survivors, their families, and Indigenous leaders.

The pandemic limited mental health services, and many communities were impacted by fatalities related to opioid overdose. The Task Force invited [Helios Recovery](#) to provide Recovery Coach training for 20 participants. ESTHER was awarded a grant from Forward Community Investments and a gift from First Congregational UCC in Appleton which reduced the cost of training and provided sponsorships. Coaches are currently serving their communities across Wisconsin and actively promoting a path towards healing.

When George Floyd was murdered in an act of police brutality, many of us mourned, and some of us protested. Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts took action. She and a team of others began to operate a medic bus for people within the “no-go zone” surrounding the George Floyd memorial site in Minneapolis. The bus is still there, serving neighborhood residents providing services, counseling, meals, prayer walks, community organizing, and spirit fires to heal the land and restore community health. *(article continued on next page)*



Mental Health Task Force, continued

The work was acknowledged in a PBS Newshour story, and the efforts continue to move the community forward toward peace and resolution.

The Mental Health Task Force saw need from the community to provide a space for healing.

Sponsored and developed by the Native Justice Coalition, Michigan and hosted by ESTHER and [Menikānaehkem](#), the Racial Justice Talking Circle originates from Kchiwiikwedong (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community). The story-sharing experience is culturally sensitive and will be introduced to the Fox Valley this upcoming year. The program is led within the Anishnaabe framework and aims to bring voice and visibility to matters surrounding racism.

MMIWG&2S Billboards. Through our partnership with the Native Justice Coalition and Menikānaehkem, the Mental Health Task Force asked the Director and Founder of Native Justice Coalition to bring two billboards to Wisconsin. Using data from U.S. Department of Justice national hotline reports, it was decided the location would be in Green Bay. This effort is intended to raise attention towards the disproportionate rates of violence against Native women and two-spirit people. If you would like to contribute to this work, and learn more about the billboard campaign, we invite you to join our meetings and listening sessions.



MMIW Billboards: Located at Highway 172 near Babcock Road and 1136 W. Mason Street.

It is critical to keep this message going. It will be ESTHER's goal to contribute funds for this campaign to keep both messages in place. Listen to Cecelia LaPointe's interview at <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/healing-through-activism-campaign-draws-attention-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people>.

This work could not be done without the involvement and support from the following partners: Menikānaehkem, MMIW Women's Cohort, Native Justice Coalition, and Helios Addiction Recovery Services.

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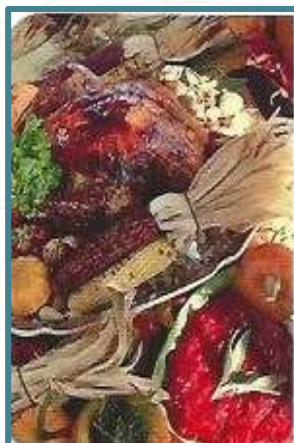
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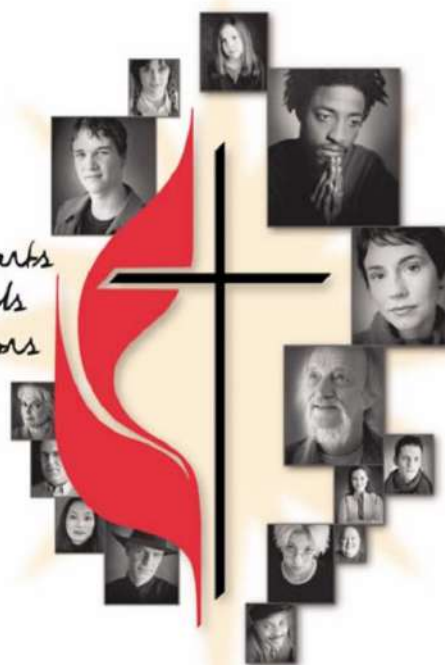
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Environmental Justice Task Force



Co-Chairperson Jessica Hanson

A Fresh, New Initiative to Protect the Future

by Jessica Hanson

The Environmental Justice Task Force was started in September of 2019 and has since worked diligently to define what pursuing environmental justice looks like within the Fox Valley and neighboring Wisconsin communities.

The group has been intentional about creating a mission statement and vision for the task force, and is in the early planning stages of developing activities that will be most impactful for our communities.

Proposed projects include working alongside our local Oneida and Menominee tribes in their tireless work opposing mining practices on their lands, as well as starting an annual tree planting project across the Fox Valley area.

The Environmental Justice Task Force is excited to jump into this work in the coming months!



Co-Chairperson Terry Dawson

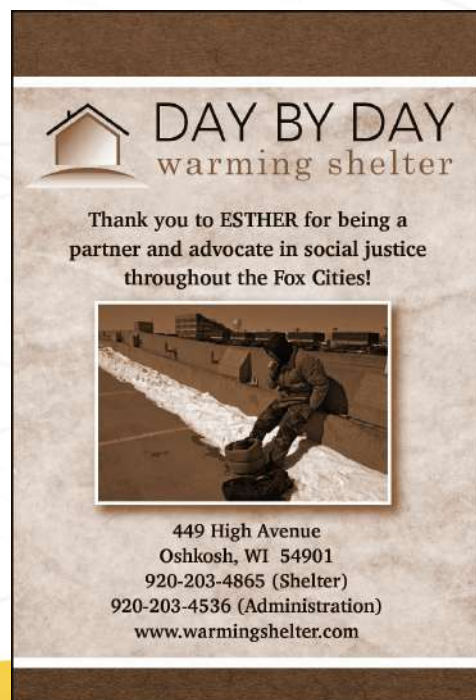
Photo by Karen Klenke

Why I love

ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER and its members because the work is aimed toward organizing communities.

ESTHER gives people a platform, allowing them to stay true to their story and be their authentic self.

— Hannah P. Schmidt aka Meskwa Anung (Red Star)



“Behold, God enjoins justice, and the doing of good, and generosity towards [one’s] fellow-men; and He forbids all that is shameful and that runs counter to reason, as well as envy; and He exhorts you repeatedly so that you might bear all this, in mind.”

(Qur’an 90:16)

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ESTHER members hard at work



Top to bottom, left to right: • Oshkosh ESTHER team out and about on Transit Day • On the bus with Gary Crevier, Connie Kanitz and Alderperson Joe Martin • Summer 2019, people came together to protest the detainment of asylum seekers





Left to right: Melissa Ludin and Lisa Hanneman

The Power of the One-on-One

By Jill Smith

Social change happens when people meet people.

Melissa Ludin and Lisa Hanneman met at an ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force meeting four years ago. Their story exemplifies how change can grow from an interaction as simple as a one-on-one. Below is a quick conversation I had with the two of them.

When did you two become acquainted?

Melissa: When my close friend named Alisa passed away in October of 2015 after serving more than 20 years in prison, it moved me to take action publicly. Alisa was a pillar and a leader to many of us in this institution. Alisa, a black woman, was not given the same reentry opportunities that many of us had. She was not from Wisconsin and she was not allowed to return home to be with her family. Prior to her death, I worked with several women after their release from incarceration, connecting them with support and resources across the state. I also helped create a Facebook support group for women who have been to prison in Wisconsin after my own release at the age of 24 in 2007. In April of 2016, my former mentor Lyle Verstegen connected me with Sara Companik, who connected me with EXPO and ESTHER.

Coming to my first ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force meeting was a spiritual awakening. I chose to look for people like Lisa so that I could begin to fight for basic human rights for people like my friend who died.

Lisa: In 2015, my son was an inmate in the Outagamie County jail. He had brain cancer while he was there. I fought to try to make sure he had access to the medicine and care that he needed, but jail protocols made it almost impossible for me to help him. He died five months later.

After that, I studied everything I could about how the jail systems work. I wrote a letter to the judge that turned into a 10-page document with 30 additional pages of evidence. Before this, I never paid attention to how to initiate change. I eventually found WISDOM on the web in 2016 and David Liners directed me to an ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force meeting at St. Mark's. Wow! The group was an awakening for me. I found a group that was (inter)faith based that thought like me. That's when I had a one-on-one with Melissa. (article continued on the next page)

The Power of the One-on-One, continued

How do you collaborate on projects?

Melissa: We both have a lot of ideas. We have the same passion about issues but we balance each other out. Lisa is very intelligent. She is a planner and a researcher.

Lisa: I like to work behind the scenes. Melissa is a great speaker. She is more of a moderator. She is quick-minded and thinks on her feet. We both love research, and we share information together.

Melissa: I learned from Lisa that we need to find out who in power can make the change. That's what we need to look for.

What things have you accomplished together regarding prison reform?

Lisa: Panel conversations with collaborating local and state lawmakers and organizations that want change. **Bringing more citizens to realize that prison reform makes communities healthier.** Getting more people to spread the word and promote our events. Carpooling to area events supporting other WISDOM affiliates, e.g., the *Close Green Bay Correctional Institute* event in November of 2019.

(Please note: Lisa and Melissa are only two of a large crew of devoted volunteers who also contribute their time to help make these things happen.)

Do you feel that your collaboration is stronger than if each of you were working alone? How and why?

Melissa: Together, we have seen and studied how politics play when we initiate change. We know that it is important to educate elected officials about issues that we are passionate about. **People assume that politicians know everything about every subject. They don't.** It is our job to educate them about what is important to our community that they are too busy to see.

Lisa: One-on-ones are necessary because we need to know about other people's lives and understand what is important to them. We need to know this because it helps us to know the kind of work people are able to do, and the kind of work they want to do. **We can only succeed at social justice work when we do it together.**

Why I love ESTHER. . . I love ESTHER because ESTHER is ongoing in seeking to change the systems of injustice toward equity and for the common good. ESTHER is interfaith and welcoming.
 — Sara Companik



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ESTHER's Relationship with Circles of Support

By David Haas

ESTHER demonstrates support for prison reform through our partnership with [Circles of Support](#), a separate organization that helps formerly incarcerated individuals as they face the challenges of reentry into their families and communities.

Clients of Circles of Support meet weekly to share their experiences, and in the meetings, those who have reentered their communities successfully provide advice and support, and serve as role models for those who have left prison more recently. The meetings also provide opportunities for volunteers who work with the organization to connect clients with services and educational opportunities.

Some of those volunteers are also members of ESTHER's Prison Reform Task Force; in addition, ESTHER serves to manage funding donations on behalf of Circles of Support.

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*Moses Montefiore Congregation
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 and Hopes that this Will Be
 Another Successful Year*

The Founding of ESTHER

By David Haas

ESTHER was founded in 2003 through the efforts of Rev. [Joseph Ellwanger](#), who had been asked by [Ana Garcia Ashley](#) to work on extending the [WISDOM](#) network of local organizations. Rev. Ellwanger chose to start in the Fox Cities because of a personal connection with Rev. [Joel Schlachtenhaufen](#), then pastor of [St. Mark's Lutheran Church](#) in Neenah. Rev. Schlachtenhaufen, who had always been interested in interfaith work, convened a meeting of about a dozen leaders of local faith congregations, and Rev. Ellwanger drove from Milwaukee to attend.

They worked together for about a year, and ESTHER was formed at a meeting hosted by Rev. [Maynard Beemer](#) at the [First Congregational UCC](#) in Appleton. The name "ESTHER" was suggested by Rev. Rachel Reeves Schwab, Associate Pastor at [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Neenah, which was one of the eight churches that formed the initial membership of the organization.



ESTHER members in Oshkosh celebrated Transit Equity Day, recognized Rosa Parks birthday and encouraged citizens to ride the bus.





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Keynote Speaker, Reverend Traci Blackmon

By David Haas

[Rev. Traci Blackmon](#) is Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ, and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Missouri. She is the first woman pastor in the 162-year history of her congregation. She is also a registered nurse with 25 years of experience in health care.

As pastor, Rev. Blackmon has led Christ The King in an expanded program of Community and Regional engagement. Their community work includes a computer lab, tutoring, continuing education classes, summer programming, a robotics team, children's library and girls' mentoring program, all housed in the church.

Their regional programs have included **Healthy Mind, Body, and Spirit**, a program that impacts health outcomes in impoverished areas, **Sista SOS Summit**, an intergenerational health symposium for women and girls, and **Souls to the Polls STL**, which provided over 2,800 additional rides to the polls during local and national elections.

A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media outlets and a frequent contributor to print publications, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and her work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., in Ferguson, Missouri, have gained her both national and international recognition.

Why I love ESTHER. . . At the heart of all religions is the call to do justice. ESTHER, whose members represent all these faith systems, "oozes" with this collective commitment to do justice.

— Fr. Joe Mattern



Reverend Traci, Blackmon

COMMON TALKS welcomes Rev. Traci Devon Blackmon to the Fox Cities!



Shavana Talbert serves as a Culturally Responsive Practices Technical Assistance Coordinator for the WI RTI Center. She facilitates workshops that cultivate critical consciousness and promote self-reflection and examination of cultural responsiveness, bias, anti-racism, and identity. Ms. Talbert is a graduate of Stanford University and is a lead trainer, consultant and IDI™ Qualified Administrator with Common Talks Consulting.



Marijke van Roojen has dedicated her professional life to two broad disciplines: Maternal Child Health with an emphasis on the social determinants of health, and community-based mediation, restorative

justice and anti-racism education. She is a certified mediator and conflict resolution specialist. Ms. van Roojen serves as a lead trainer, consultant and IDI™ Qualified Administrator with Common Talks Consulting. She holds an MPH from UMN.

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Community Leadership Award Recipient: Kristin Welch



Kristin Welch

Kristin Welch (BAS, Human Development) is a trained community organizer with the Indigenous-led nonprofit Menikānaehkem. She is from the Menominee Nation, and is a lead organizer for the Women's Leadership Cohort MMIW. Her work includes revitalizing traditional matriarchal roles within Indigenous communities through identity work, systems change, and advocacy for survivors of violence. The Women's Leadership Cohort combats the MMIW epidemic by creating access to traditional knowledge, community organizing, policy change and community education. Kristin helps provide training in advocacy skills, power mapping, policy work, wellness work, and group facilitation to empower Indigenous women organizers to create meaningful campaigns for social change.

She currently sits on the Governor's Council of Mental Health and is the co-chair for the Adult Quality Committee. She has 10 years of experience in mental health, family wrap-around care (CST),

AODA prevention, and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault advocacy before becoming a grassroots organizer.

She is a proud mother of three and a member of the healing society, Three Fires Confederacy Midewewin Lodge. She believes strongly that creating partnerships with both formal and informal supports within tribal communities will help build and strengthen an Ecosystem of Care that is equitable, easily accessible, and sustainable. Her work utilizes Indigenous wellness models that offer alternate pathways to healing and are critical for healing and recovery work within tribal communities, and for those who serve Indigenous peoples.

When asked why she chose this work, Kristen replied, "We got started out of a necessity. So many women and families were impacted directly or indirectly. We had to make sure that Indigenous women were leading the fight and lifting up our families."



Why I love ESTHER. . .It's a great cause and the people are very dedicated.

— Robert Zeegers

Individual Leadership Award Recipient: Jennifer Considine



Jennifer Considine

By Bill Van Lopik

Jennifer knows her stuff when it comes to community organizing. Back when she was in college at Texas A&M she helped organize a campus-wide campaign to advocate for a living-wage for maintenance and service workers. It was a momentous campaign that she helped win.

She brought those same skills to Oshkosh. Not only is Jennifer a professor and Chair of the UW-Oshkosh Communications Department, but she is also the leader of the Oshkosh ESTHER task force. This past year was especially memorable for the Oshkosh group. They advocated for a number of years for the right of Oshkosh children to ride on the city bus to school at no-cost. After numerous meetings, hearings and letter-writing, the Oshkosh City Council and School Board arrived at an

agreement to make this a reality. This only happened because of the tireless organizing of the Oshkosh group lead by Jennifer. It was a victory for the families who had to cobble together bus fare for their kids everyday. Jennifer also serves on the ESTHER Equity and Racial Justice Committee and has been a key voice in moving us along as an anti-racist organization.



Why I Love ESTHER. . I love that ESTHER gives me opportunities to live my faith through action.
— Kathy



Why I love ESTHER. . It's a great cause and the people are very dedicated.
— Cindy Carter

Some Current Information

... on the MMIWG Movement in Wisconsin

By Rick Kitchen

Studies show that Native women are about three times more likely to be murdered than white women in the U.S. Rough U.S. Census estimates of the white population is 76.3% and American Indian and Alaska Native is 1.3%.

The MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) epidemic in Wisconsin is similar to that in many U.S. states and territories, as well as other areas around the world where Indigenous peoples live.

In Wisconsin, a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Task Force was created on July 2, 2020, by Attorney General Josh Kaul and the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) after state lawmakers failed to pass legislation that would have created a task force in 2019. A bipartisan group of lawmakers including Amanda Stuck from the 57th Assembly District (a large part of the Fox Cities), had introduced this bill in September. But, it wasn't brought to the floor for a vote before the session ended. Indigenous women from the (local to the Fox Cities) Menominee Reservation, and other parts of Wisconsin, were instrumental in putting the bill together.

Task force members have been appointed, and its first meeting is expected to take place in the near future. The task force will take input from working groups and from local, grassroots task forces (tribal and urban) around Wisconsin. This newly created Wisconsin task force is also collaborating with state task forces in New Mexico and Minnesota.

One of the main movers in the MMIW movement in this part of Wisconsin is Kristin Welch. She is lead organizer of the MMIW Women's Leadership Cohort, which is part of Menikānaehkem (Community Rebuilders), a grassroots community organization on the Menominee Reservation. She is also a Menikānaehkem Community Organizer. Through the MMIW Women's Leadership Cohort, critical up-to-date information about MMIW is disseminated to those who are working to end the MMIW epidemic.

Other states, including Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, have created MMIW task forces. A federal MMIW task force, the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, *aka* Operation Lady Justice, was established in November 2019. Wisconsin's task force is not yet as active or responsive as it should be in order to fulfill its purpose.





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Why I love ESTHER. . .

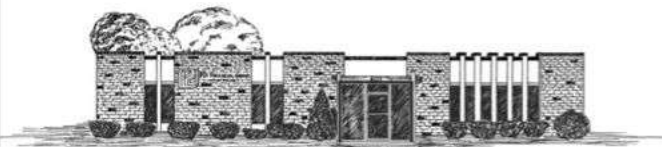
I love ESTHER because the people who are involved are amazing, and we all share the mission of creating a just world. It gives me hope!
— Connie Raether



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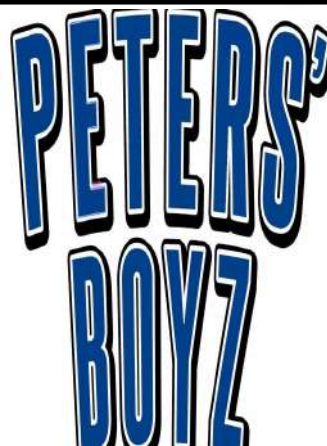
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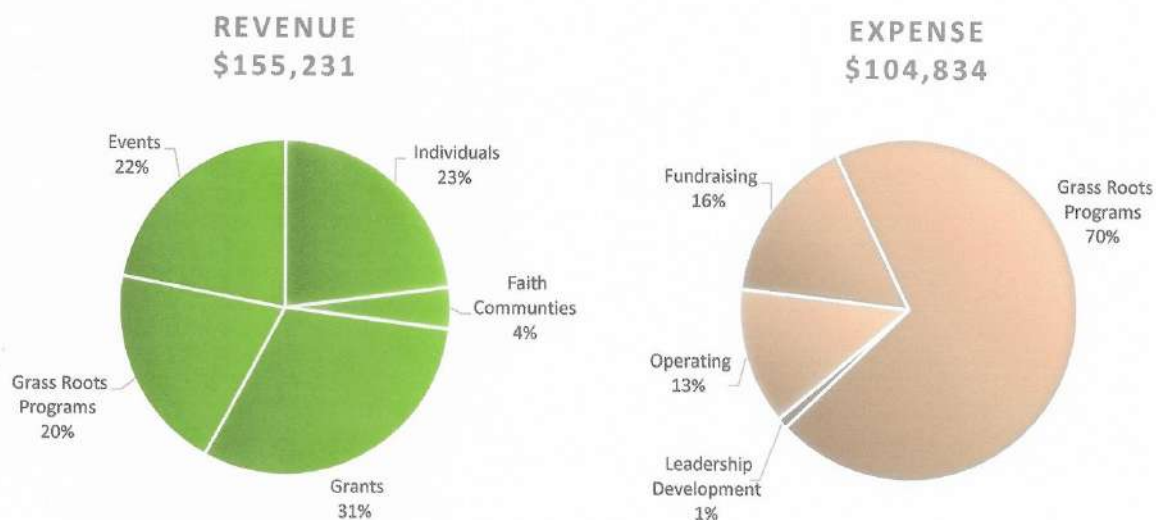
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2019-2020 Revenue and Expense Report

By Mary Bissing-Olson

ESTHER Revenue and Expenses

September 2019 - August 2020



To review a detailed financial statement, please contact the ESTHER office at 920-843-8083 or office@estherfoxvalley.org.



The dancers of Keshena dressed in regalia visited with Mark Charles last fall.

Why I love ESTHER...
connecting with others
to make change!
— Jennifer Considine

Sidewalk Talks

By David Haas

Prison reform has been a core concern of ESTHER since the founding of the organization, and the Prison Reform Task Force is one of its most active.

This summer, under the leadership of Rob Zeegers, the Prison Reform Task Force has held a series of Silent Services every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., for the purpose of raising public awareness of the need for – and benefits of – prison reform.

An important part of the message is that **Prison Reform promotes healthy communities**. It does so by providing training and counselling in prisons, as well as various kinds of support for people after their release from prison.

Today, many people who are released from prison end up returning to prison within a few years because [reentry into society is so difficult](#).

This is not only a tragic loss for those who have to return to prison and their families; it is also terrible for our communities. The Silent Services aim to inform as many individuals as possible in our communities that alternatives exist, and that we can provide better outcomes both for the formerly incarcerated and for the communities in which they live.

Why I love ESTHER. . .I love ESTHER because we, through our hard work and education, can plant seeds of change. It gives me a chance to live out the Gospel in a more profound way. It's a way to gather with others to help make positive changes in our world.

— Michele “Mimi” Maki (Emmaus-Oshkosh)



Why I love ESTHER. . .I love ESTHER because it connects me with amazing inspired people of faith. Hope and joy never die!

— Kathleen Gribble

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ENI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, strength-based organization created by educators, counselors, jail officials and community members designed to have a positive impact in the community it serves.



A Call to Action Interview with Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts

By Jill Smith



Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts went to help in the Powderhorn district of Minneapolis immediately after George Floyd's murder. This is just a glimpse of her story.

There was an uprising in protest after George Floyd's murder, I asked Fawn, "What motivated you to go to Minneapolis?"

Fawn explained, "I am originally from Minnesota. My family lives there. I was helping my uncle, who lives on 37th and Columbus, with his non-profit. Some of my family from the neighborhood knew him. I was called in to help."

Tell me how your team was set up. How did you help the community?

Fawn continued, "One of my Uncle Bob's other nieces, Kia Bible set up a first aid station. She was overwhelmed, originally thinking that it would be simple first aid. She quickly learned that it would take much more than that. I came down on the third day to help her and other community members organize a medic team and station. A bus was donated which was initially used as a barricade. Eventually, the city put up concrete barricades, and the bus served as our main office. A medical yurt was brought from Standing Rock, and a few large tents were donated."

"EMS refused to come to the site, so we went on social media and asked for volunteers. On the rare occasions that EMS did come, they arrived with police and weapons. During the first shooting, four squads came. Each squad had four officers in it and they all carried assault rifles. They interviewed and grilled our medical team with guns pointed at their faces. Our main doctor, Dr Jackie Kawiecki (pictured to the left of Fawn) was on site that night."

"When Doc first came to volunteer, she originally agreed to help for five hours. She didn't leave to go home to sleep and stayed for five days. Within five minutes of being on site she had to treat someone having a severe allergic reaction with an epipen."

(article continued on next page)

Call to Action Interview, *continued*

Fawn goes further, “The first week, we worked 24 hour shifts. After the riots, the police stopped coming to the area. Often times people were told to call 311 instead of 911 even when trying to report serious crimes and gunshots. The community stepped up to provide the services that the city would not, including developing security teams and neighborhood patrols.”

“In the daytime, the tourists and mourners came. At night, it was a war zone. For example, a gentleman jumped out of his two story window to escape from a group that was attacking him. He broke his leg. It was a severe compound fracture. I pushed him in a wheelchair three blocks to the edge of the “autonomous zone” where he could reach an ambulance and be taken to a hospital to receive proper treatment. EMS still refused to come without more officers. Eventually we made an agreement and he was taken in by an ambulance and one squad escort.”

“I put the call out for more volunteers. We needed doctors, nurses and medical supplies. Thirty two medical personnel came to help. This allowed us to schedule shifts and Dr. Kawiecki could go home and go to sleep.”

“We treated two overdoses on site. Explosive devices were found. Fortunately, we had two combat medics on staff who could diffuse them. These devices were then turned over to the police.”

“After being there for a few weeks, I was pulled into a leadership role. I organized some of the first community meetings. I tried to uplift some of the organizers that live in the community. This is where my Gamaliel training came in handy. We met with police, EMS, and the fire chief who brought us supplies. We also met with the American Indian Movement. You see, the areas where riots occurred became “autonomous zones” all over the city. I helped organize services in all of these places. We did everything from first aid to mental health treatment to neighborhood security. We dealt with a lot of gunshots.”

“I was running deals with businesses in the “autonomous zones” so that they could stay in business. An organizing network called *Can Do* helped us with this work. I tried to make it so that I could talk to everyone and be the neutral party. I was less intimidating because I am a woman of color and had no affiliations. I tried to approach every situation as a neutral negotiator but I also tried to antagonize people so that they could be the best that they could be. These are tricks I learned from my week long Gamaliel training.”

What is the situation like in Minneapolis now?

Fawn replies, “Yesterday was George Floyd’s birthday (October 14th). People in the community are asking about what we are going to do for Thanksgiving? We’ve decided to have a decolonization feast.”

(article continued on next page)



Call to Action Interview, *continued*

“Right now, members of the community have a list of demands. The campaign is called “No Justice, No Street.” The people of the community have decided to hold the ground until they see something that looks like justice and when I say that I mean that it is not just about the memorial. They have a list of demands. One of the demands is to end qualified immunity for on duty police officers. Currently, the union protects police officers from being charged of any crime while on duty. Another demand is to defund the police. I am not saying that we don’t need the police. I am saying that some simple things can be done to fix the system.”

Fawn brings attention towards the many people who are serving the community, “A lot of people are organizing food banks, and medics are in the “autonomous zones” until November 15th, there are people still working around the clock doing what the police are not doing in these areas. We are responding to domestic abuse calls and to other violent situations. The biggest issues are finding funding and preparing for winter. Things have calmed down a lot because it is getting cold.”

Fawn adds, “Right now, there is a shift in the social fabric. Before, if something would happen, no one would say anything. Now everyone knows each other. Everyone has everyone else’s phone numbers. We know our community and we work together. When people eat together, when people commune together then people can change the social fabric. These are the things that help to build community.”

What would you like to say to others who are considering taking part in social justice?

Fawn responds, “I’d say, right now is a really impactful time. If you have anything that is important to you, you need to stand up for what you believe in. We need everybody. Now is not the time to back down. We need everybody’s voices. We need everyone at the table.”

“I feel that we are on the verge of a revolution. When I commit to this kind of work, I look for things that inspire me. In Minneapolis, what really inspired me was that I saw all these young people, who have experienced terrible things in their lives, step up and work the night shifts. Two of these people were immigrants from Somalia. One was from a refugee camp in India. Young people came from reservations and rural America.. Obviously, because it is a memorial site, people came from all over the world to visit.”

“There is just a really great memorial. It is headstones of all the black men who were killed by police in the last ten years. That spot is so emotional. People lay flowers there and cry. This has become the site for all of that emotion and anger, sometimes. It’s raw. If that doesn’t move you, I don’t know what will.”

“These kinds of experiences are necessary so that we understand the full impact. I know how I felt when George cried for his mother. I felt, that is enough. If someone crying for their mother doesn’t move you to action, what will?”

(article continued on next page)

Call to Action Interview, *continued*

Fawn elaborates, “When you talk about a call to action, what does that mean for you? She shares, “It hurts my heart when I see an open pit mine. When I see my son who is Native and who has cognitive special needs, I believe that he has a double whammy against him and those things inspire us to action.”

“We have to be the change we want to see in the world but we also have to encourage people to grow into the best they can be. Communing together, eating together, sharing comedy shows, and movies are all a part of this work not just the protests that happen, it is a bonding experience of healing and repair. This is the foundation of true restorative justice.”

Supporting Fawn remotely also called for prayer, knowing Fawn’s safety was exposed to such severe situations that potentially put her own life in danger. Commitment fueled her to carry out her work for a community she has been tied to since her youth.





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- We're working to reduce the over-use of incarceration by promoting treatment alternatives and fixing a broken parole system
- We're getting to know the marginalized in our midst and working with them to tell their stories throughout our community
- We're helping ordinary people find their voices by teaching them how to organize and build power in their communities
- We're meeting with elected officials, asking them to keep humanity and fair treatment, not partisan talking points, at the forefront
- We're focusing on building healthy communities for everyone through our work for transportation equity and supporting ex-prisoners as they return home.

Will you help ESTHER build its financial strength?

Make a **secure online contribution** by visiting us on the web at esther-foxvalley.org/contribute.
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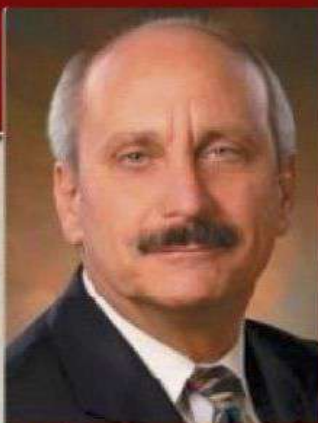
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