



2009 Annual Report

October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009

peace  justice center
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A Message from the Board Chair & Executive Director

This fiscal year has been full of change: Our 31st year has been marked by a number of decisions that were guided by years of visioning and strategic planning work. While experiencing a year of inconsistent leadership (May 2008-April 2009), the board and staff worked together to set goals for the organization. Some of these decisions have not been without risk, but they have been especially timely.

After working through a challenging transition period, the PJC welcomed new Executive Director Nancy Lynch to the team in May 2009. With her leadership, we re-evaluated the structure of staff and the work that we do, and focused our work to match the capacity of the organization. This year we came to acknowledge we did not have the human or fiscal resources to effectively support operating 3 different programs.

We turned this realization into an opportunity to move away from dividing the work of peace, racial justice, and economic justice into different programs and toward a team approach. We re-dedicated our energies to furthering our *Job Gap Studies*, which allows us to provide much needed advocacy at the statehouse at a crucial time.

The PJC is entering those conversations by providing new research and data challenging the state to rethink the status quo approach to job creation. We are working to ensure that Vermonters and their needs are not sacrificed at the expense of big business and motives that will not help Vermonters achieve self-sufficiency and prosperity. We are inserting a human rights and racial justice lens into the conversation and we are the only ones there making sure this happens.

In August 2009, we acted on a long-time goal of ours, to move the Center to an accessible, above-ground space. We found a new home at Lake Street. Our new space is a bit smaller and a change for those who are used to finding us on Church Street, but we feel better about being accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, as well as having parking nearby for our members and store supporters. Finally, it is a much healthier space for our staff and volunteers. We cannot be on the forefront of promoting fair and healthy workplaces, if we do not provide that for our own staff.

In an effort to complement the Center's re-dedication to promoting a local economy and fair trade business practices, the Peace & Justice Store has made some heroic efforts to hone its own mission to focus much more exclusively on local and fair trade items and become a destination for products that support the mission of the Center. As we experienced in September – the tail end of summer – and from what we have learned from our new neighbors at Skinny Pancake and ECHO, our busy season has shifted from winter to the summer.

It has been a year of transformation and transition for the PJC. We are excited and optimistic that we have honed our work in a way that will allow us to continue to provide the services

expected of us by our members, supporters, and the greater community. In these difficult financial times, many non-profits are closing, and we are doing everything we can to remain a stable, reliable voice for peace and justice issues in Vermont. Remaining nimble and being willing to change and adapt to new

circumstances, whether they be financial, cultural, political, or organizational, are key to our success. There is a lot of work to be done, and we look forward to being around to continue the important work of promoting peace and justice for another 30 years!

Our Mission is to create a just and peaceful world. To this end, we work on the interconnected issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights through education, advocacy, training and non-violent activism, and community organizing.

Nancy Lynch
Executive Director

Hilary Martin
Board Chair


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*Office Manager, and
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*Development Director***Colin Robinson**
*Vermont Livable Wage
Campaign/ Vermont Economic
Justice Project***Jen Berger**
*Recruiting for Peace Campaign/
Peace & Human Rights Project***Kathy Bouton**
*Co-Manager, Peace & Justice
Store***Jennifer Reay**
*Co-Manager, Peace & Justice
Store***Foundations**AJ Muste
Anne Slade Frey
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Block Foundation
Gay and Lesbian Fund of Vermont
Haymarket People's Fund
Sisters of Mercy
Unitarian Universalist Funding
Program
United Church of Christ
Vermont Community Foundation/
Concept2 Fund
Vermont Community Foundation/
Kokoro Fund
Winky Foundation**Vermont Livable Wage Campaign Highlights 2008-2009**

- We educated over 1400 Vermonters and Vermont businesses about livable wages, economic inequality, and the Livable Jobs Toolkit in communities and classrooms in every corner of the state.
- The Vermont Livable Wage Campaign (VLWC) continued to build the Paid Sick Days for Vermont campaign and lead the Vermont Paid Sick Day Coalition. Throughout the fall we collected hundreds of petitions signatures, knocked on doors throughout the state, presented about paid sick days at two conferences, completed a statewide poll on the issue and continued to partner with Voices for Vermont's Children to build the coalition.
- The VLWC monitored the completion of the work of the Legislature's Basic Needs Budget Technical Advisory Council, a group brought together to review and make an assessment of the methodology and data used to create the Basic Needs Budget – the source of the Livable Wage. This important review reaffirmed the importance of the calculations and helped ensure that the numbers continue to reflect what a livable wage is in Vermont.
- After working throughout the fall with a group of University of Vermont Medical College students on a public health analysis of paid sick days titled "The Impact of Paid Sick Days on Public Health in an Elementary School Population," the study was finally released at the Vermont Commission on Women legislative lunch. The study clearly highlighted the positive impact paid sick days has on the access to health care of children. The students were later selected to present their findings at the American Public Health Association annual conference.
- Based upon the advocacy of the VLWC the Vermont minimum wage broke the \$8 mark for the first time in history. Having been adjusted for inflation the



Vermont minimum wage went up to \$8.06/hr making it the third highest in the country. For the 6,000 Vermonters making less than \$8/hr and the 7,000 Vermonters making the tipped minimum wage, it was a much deserved raise.

- The Joint Fiscal Office of the State of Vermont released 2009 Basic Needs Budget Report and the new livable wage figures. The VLWC publicized the information and received some favorable coverage in news outlets across the state.
- Livable Wages and the VLWC was featured throughout the month of January on Vermont Public Television in a short public services announcement about livable wages. In late January we were featured on *Public Square*, a live call in show on issues affecting Vermonters.
- Realizing that the legislation on the minimum wage we helped to pass in 2005 was silent on what happened if we saw deflation, the VLWC worked to ensure that language was passed that made sure the minimum wage couldn't decrease.
- In April, we reconnected with long time partners Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility to host a workshop titled



Wendy Coe and Colin Robinson talk with Christopher Kaufman-Ilstrup at the Healthcare Rally May 1, 2009 on the State House lawn.



Vermont Livable Wage Campaign Highlights 2008-2009

VLWC continued from page 2

“Managing and Retaining Employees in Hard Economic Times – The Livable Jobs Toolkit”. The workshop, attended by over 25 businesses, educated participants about livable wages and what they can do to create livable jobs for their employees.

- In coalition with several organizations PJC took a lead in helping to organize Save our State rallies and actions against the state budget cuts. We helped to turn out hundreds of people across the state for simultaneous rallies to push back.
- In partnership with AARP Vermont, Community of Vermont Elders (COVE), and the Vermont Commission on Women, the VLWC helped release the Elder Basic Needs Budget. Based upon the livable wage and the Basic Needs Budget, the AARP funded research established a Vermont specific Elder Economic Security Standard.
- The Vermont Paid Sick Day Campaign continued to build momentum throughout the summer. We hosted

two well attended press conferences in May and September highlighting the importance of paid sick days for all Vermonters. We continued to collect petitions signatures, encourage folks to write letters to the editor, and build relationships with Vermont businesses.



- In June, the VLWC and PHRP hosted the very successful, first annual, **Youth Activist Institute** at Castleton State College with 14 inspiring high school students from across Vermont. The two day intensive Activist Institute included presentations from a broad spectrum of activists discussing both issues and skills, and participants left feeling energized.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS '08-'09

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High School Teacher*

Woody Keppel

Actor

Hilary Martin- chair

Organic Farmer

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Union Organizer

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*VT Department of Education
Intergovernmental Affairs
Co-ordinator*

Wayne Turiansky

*Owner of Amalgamated Culture
Works*

Ed Everts - emeritus



Peace & Human Rights Project Highlights 2008-2009

- The Peace & Human Rights Project (PHRP) worked as a founding member of the Vermont Peace Economy Coalition. VPEC was comprised of community members, peace activists, students, and organizations working towards peace. VPEC believed that Vermont and the US needed a sustainable peace economy – socially just and ecologically sound – not a war economy.
- Throughout the fall of 2008, the PHRP surveyed Vermont high schools about their “opt-out” policies and forms to make sure that they were in compliance with the law. Additionally, we visited 6 high schools to talk with students about military recruitment.
- The PHRP hosted a film series, featuring popular films like *Charlie Wilson's War* and *Stop Loss* in partnership with the American Friends Service Committee throughout the winter and into the spring.
- The PHRP worked to help organize the anti-war protest on the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. We also worked to send busses to Washington, DC and to build for turnout at Vermont rallies on March 19th.
- The PHRP completed the *Winter Soldier* DVD to help educate youth across Vermont about military service and also updated the *Alternatives Book* about alternatives to military service.



Mayor Kiss proclaiming January 29, 2009: “Peace & Justice Center Day”. Also pictured: Barbara Wynroth and Tiffany Silliman.

Collaborators and Allies

AARP
 American Friends Service Committee
 Big Heavy World
 Bread & Puppet Theater
 Burlington Education Association/VT-NEA
 Castleton State College
 Circles for Peace
 Coalition of Vermont Elders
 Community College of Vermont
 Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN)
 First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington
 Green Mountain Chapter - Older Women's League
 Green Mountain Veterans for Peace
 InterAmerican CASA
 Iraq Veterans Against the War
 Kids Are Priority One Coalition
 Mom's Rising
 National Partnership for Women and Families
 ONE Vermont Coalition
 Seven Days
 United for Peace and Justice
 United Professions of Vermont/AFT
 Vermont AFL-CIO
 Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR)
 Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security
 Vermont Commission on Women
 Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 Vermont Public Radio
 Vermont Workers' Center
 Voices for Vermont's Children
 Women's International League of Peace & Freedom, Burlington
 Working Vermont: The Coalition of Vermont Labor Unions

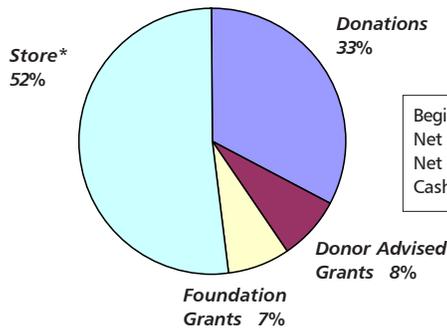
Businesses

American Flatbread,
 Burlington Hearth
 Ben & Jerry's
 Boloco
 Chittenden Bank
 City Market
 Concept 2
 Diggers Mirth Collective
 Healthy Living
 Main Street Landing
 O' Bread
 Shelburne Farms
 Skinny Pancake
 Zabby & Elf's Stone Soup
 Top of the Block

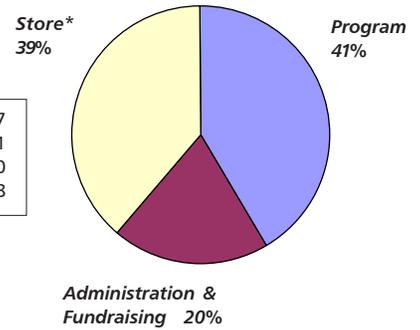


Financial Statement: OCTOBER 1, 2008 ▪ SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Revenue



Expenses

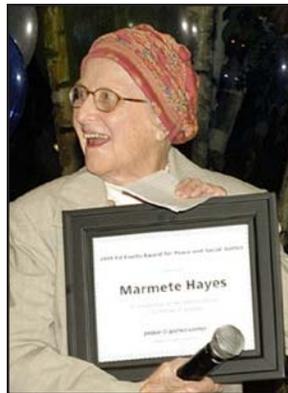


Beginning Cash	\$88,337
Net Revenue	\$276,411
Net Expenses	-\$321,660
Cash Balance	\$43,088

* The Peace & Justice Store is one of the educational projects of the Peace & Justice Center.



PJC Third Annual Activist Awards August 29, 2009



Marmete Hayes
 Ed Everts Award for
 Peace & Social Justice



Ita Meno
 Young Leader Award



Freedom to Marry Task Force
 Social Justice Group of the Year
 Sheryl Rapee-Adams and Sherry Corbin



Peace & Justice Center Highlights 2008-2009

- Mayor Kiss declared January 29, 2009: "Peace & Justice Center Day". We celebrated the Peace & Justice Center's 30th Anniversary Party at Burlington City Hall with a 30 Cake Parade, music by the Starline Rhythym Boys, and written reflections from Sen. Leahy, Sen. Sanders, and Rep. Welch. There was a human timeline of 30 years of working for peace and justice in Vermont. It was a wonderful celebration of everyone's hard work over the years.
- In May, we welcomed Nancy Lynch as our new Executive Director.
- We hosted the 3rd Annual Activist Awards: A Celebration of the Social Justice Community in Vermont in late August. With over 100 attendees we honored Marmete Hayes, Vermont Freedom to Marry, and Ita Meno.
- After 18 years on Church Street we moved to our new home at 60 Lake Street on the Burlington Waterfront.