Dear friends,

This fiscal year did not go as planned: our work turned upside down first when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and then with the uprisings against the police murder of Black people.

We thought the biggest news would be the retirement of Wendy Coe, PJC co-founder and Operations Manager for 41 years, and the transition to a new Executive Director. Wendy did move on, which was a monumental change, but the ED transition got postponed when COVID hit.

The first half of the year was busy with educational programs, interns and volunteers, store operations, and supporting other organizing and activist groups around the state. We put a new floor in the store. We moved all our files onto the cloud and started using the Microsoft suite for storage and communication. We welcomed several new Allied Groups who receive fiscal sponsorship and other support from us. We supported community organizing around the state.

We hosted our second trip to the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum & National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. An interracial and intergenerational group of 12 were deeply impacted by their group process as well as the sites they visited.

And then COVID hit.

Like everyone, we have a COVID narrative. On March 13, we shut down the store and cancelled all our programs. We had enough money in the bank to get through two pay periods. Thanks to our amazing membership, along with the government support and our generous landlord (Main Street Landing), we have remained on solid ground with no layoffs.

The first couple months were messy and difficult. We had some hardships including one staff member who got COVID, one who had a fire and a flood, and one who left the organization suddenly. We spent time doing behind the scenes things: self-education, website clean-up, and inventory management. We figured out how often to meet on Zoom. First it wasn’t enough. And then it was too much. We’ve continued to shift and adjust.

And then George Floyd was murdered.

When the uprisings against police murder of Black people began, people shifted from focusing on public safety and community needs related to the virus, to public safety for Black people and other marginalized people.

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Many Hands: 750 members 20 facilitators 45 volunteers/terms 3320 volunteer hours 60+ cooperatives, artists, & vendors

We had our first BIPOC retreat thanks to the generosity of Knoll Farm. This community Voices for Immigration Rights had its one-year anniversary in July, and we left the Steering Committee knowing that they have great leadership to continue their amazing work.

We sold 100s of BLM signs curbside. We moved our educational programs to online formats. We were contacted and supported by many Vermont businesses. This is all very affirming. It told us that people think our work is valuable and that businesses and artists are looking for ways to contribute to social justice.

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We had our first BIPOC retreat thanks to the generosity of Knoll Farm. This was great timing as the racial make-up of our staff shifted: for the first time in the 41 years of the Peace & Justice Center’s existence, we are now majority POC. We have an opportunity to continue to transform an organization that can more authentically serve both BIPOC and white people. It is hard work at times as we fumble, get hurt, and figure things out, but we are doing the work to shift the culture of the organization while still maintaining our roots and mission.

Starting in September we returned to the center part time but we have yet to welcome the public back. We launched our online store in November so we can support our partners around the world with curbside and shipping options. We, like everyone, are working in unprecedented times and making it up as we go while holding true to our mission and values.

Thanks for being here with us.

Financial Summary: October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Net revenue $391,868
Net expense $312,265
Cash balance $79,603

Workshops and trainings we participated in:
- How to Get the Most Out of Your Website
- COVID in Gaza
- COVID in Indian Country
- War Divestment with Code Pink and World Beyond War
- Community Accountability and Transformative Justice
- Storytelling for Impact
- Tools Every Nonprofit Needs to Simplify Their Life
- Social Media 102
- COVID’s Impact on the Black Community
- Leveling Up the Jewish Left

Some businesses and groups who supported our work:
- Expressions
- Middlebury Friends
- Burlington IU Society
- Switchback Brewery
- Lawson’s Finest Liquors
- Von Bargen’s Jewelry
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- Sisters of Color
- Faith United Methodist
- VT Spice of Life
- The Drawing Board
- Pleasant Ranch

Active Allied Groups:
1. Creative Community
2. BrooklynStrongVT
3. Loving Day Vermont
4. People for Peace & Security
5. Randolph Area Asylum Seekers
6. Protect Geprags Park
7. Save Our Skies Stop the F-35s
8. Seeds for Venezuela
9. Social Equity Working Group
10. SURJ Middlebury
11. Vermont’s Freedom & Unity Chorus
12. Vermonters for Justice in Palestine
13. Waterbury-Area Anti-Racist Coalition