



# 2016 Annual Report

October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

peace justice center

research • policy • action

Dear Members,

This past year has allowed the Peace & Justice Center to clarify much of our work and to recommit to the community's needs. While the world is full of devastation and oppression, we address it directly and build alternatives. I, personally, am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many committed community members as well as our volunteers, interns, staff, Racial Justice Advisory Committee, and Board of Directors.

We have offered our educational workshops on Nonviolent Activism, Racial Justice and Fair Trade in many locations around the state including Manchester, Lyndonville, Hardwick, Winoooski, Jericho, South Burlington, and Montpelier. As national attention continues to focus on racial injustice, the Peace & Justice Center has received increasing numbers of calls for educational workshops and support to address racism. We have given our presentation on White Fragility to over 800 Vermonters, explaining why it is so hard for white people to talk about race and racism and why it is so important to do so. In order to respond to the requests we get for educational workshops, we are actively recruiting and supporting new facilitators in all our program areas.

We have continued to shine a light on the injustices of war and human rights atrocities. Our Cost of War: Focus on Drones campaign brought presentations and films around the state. That program has concluded although there is still some legislative action pending. We supported and hosted events such as War is a Racket, Benefit Concert for Syrian Refugees, and "Indivisible: Love Knows no Borders." As always, we hosted our annual anti-war events such as Songs for Hope on Hiroshima Day and our Tax Day Penny Poll.

In our store, we continue to educate customers about trade agreements and the practice of Fair Trade. We support dozens of vendors both local and global, allowing people to send their children to school, access fresh water, and become self-sufficient. Our Cocoa Campaign has begun collaborating with Lake Champlain Chocolate as they achieve 100% fair trade cocoa sourcing and our fair trade educational workshops have been presented in classrooms, from 6th grade through college.

We are active in legislative coalitions working on Paid Family and Medical Leave and Raise the Wage campaigns. We worked with the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, Migrant Justice, ACLU and others in the creation of the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. We are active collaborators with Gun Sense Vermont's efforts to pass Universal Background Check legislation.

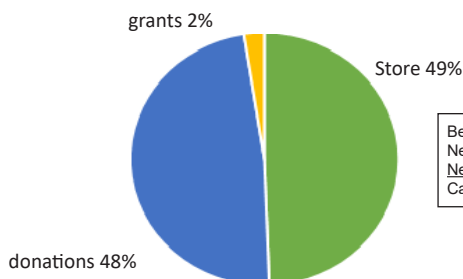
We shared our work with college and university departments, schools of all levels, libraries, faith-based groups, and other nonprofit organizations. These coalitions and collaborations are key to making sustainable and just change. We cannot and must not operate in isolation. That would be counter to our deep belief in nonviolence, which is based on human connection. Through these connections and relationships, we make meaningful change toward a peaceful and just world.

Rachel Siegel  
Executive Director

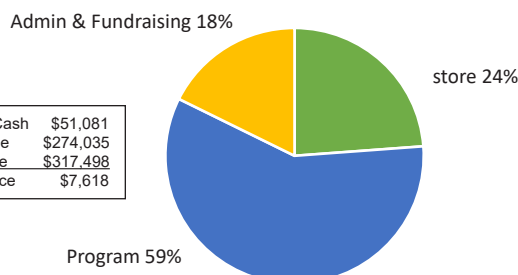


## Financial Statement: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

### Revenues



### Expenses



Beginning Cash	\$51,081
Net Revenue	\$274,035
Net Expense	\$317,498
Cash Balance	\$7,618

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

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.

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#### STAFF 2015-2016

**Rachel Siegel**

*Executive Director*

**Kyle Silliman-Smith and**

*Program Director*

**Wendy Coe**

*Office Manager*

**Amy Crosswhite**

*Fair Trade Programs & Store  
Manager*

**Kristen Connors**

*Volunteer Coordinator*

**Dylan Kelley**

*Organizational Assistant &  
Marketing Manager*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS '15-'16

**Linda Ayer**

**Beverly Little Thunder, Chair**

**Jake Schumann, Treasurer**

**David Shiman**

**Nathan Suter**

**Paij Wadley-Bailey**

**Jas Wheeler**

**Judith Yarnall**

#### VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

This year 58 people served as volunteers and interns at the PJC. More than 3,725 volunteer hours were contributed. We couldn't do this work without you!



## Peace & Justice Center Highlights 2015-2016

#### October-December 2015:

- Champlain College students join Cocoa Campaign: Hot Cocoa on Church St, Burlington
- How to Talk to Kids About Racism, PJC
- Jewelry Making workshop with Denur Crafts' Leah Mitula from Nairobi, Burlington
- Film screenings: *The Mask You Live In*, *MisLEAD*, *The House I Live In*, and *Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*
- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression (2X), UVM and PJC
- Recruiting for Peace at Colchester High School and Essex High School
- Big Picture Gathering at Vermont Technical College, Randolph
- Frederick Douglass Book Discussion, PJC
- Cocoa Campaign Presentation, Williston Central School
- Presente Vigil to protest School of the Americas, Burlington
- Fair Trade vs. Free Trade Presentation, St. Albans CCV
- Surveillance Drones Presentation, PJC
- Drone Quilt Block Making Party and *Wounds of Waziristan* film, Huntington

#### January – March 2016:

- White Fragility Presentation, United Methodist Church, Fairfax
- *Children in the Civil Rights Movement*, Burlington
- Keynote address for MLK Day, Johnson State College
- Surveillance Drones Presentation, Charlotte
- Pedaling for Peace workshops at the Sustainability Academy, Burlington
- Cocoa Campaign Presentation, PJC
- Nonviolent Activism 101, Winooski
- Cocoa Campaign Presentation, Williston Central School
- Film screenings: *Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* and *Welcome to Leith*
- Recruiting for Peace, Burlington High School
- Surveillance Drones Presentation, Montpelier
- Free Trade vs. Fair Trade (focusing on Global Health) at UVM Medical School
- Keynote on youth in nonviolent movements and workshops on white fragility at Vermont Association of Middle Level Education Conference
- International Women's Day Celebration, Burlington
- Nonviolent Engagement in Conflict, Burlington
- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression, Winooski
- Nonviolent Engagement in Conflict, Lyndonville

#### April – June 2016:

- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression (2X), Hardwick and Essex Jct
- Children in Nonviolence Movements for Peace, Burlington
- Keynote and workshops at BFA Fairfax Diversity Day, Fairfax
- Tax Day Penny Poll with Veterans for Peace, Burlington
- Alexis Lathem's *Book of the Sixth: A Poetry and Jazz Performance*, PJC
- Panel and workshop with Lost Nation Theater's *Hairspray*, Montpelier
- Presentation on privilege at Winooski High School
- De-Escalating Conflict, Youth Conference, Burlington
- *New Jim Crow, S. Burlington High School* and *Between the World and Me* book discussion, Burlington
- Discussion facilitation following *Drone* screening at White River Film Festival
- War is a Racket! Performance, Burlington
- Nonviolent Activism 101, Montpelier
- Loving Day Vermont, Burlington
- Fact vs Fiction: Media Coverage and the Trial of Victor Jara, PJC

#### July – September 2016:

- White Fragility Talk, First UU Society, Burlington
- *The Meaning of the 4th of July for the Negro*, Community Reading, Burlington
- Nonviolent Activism 101 with Pride Center, Burlington
- Films: *Do Not Resist*, *Indivisible: Love Knows No Borders*, and *Oriented*, Burlington and Waitsfield
- Songs of Hope: Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembered, Burlington
- *Rising to the Challenge* and *Bottom-Up Economy* book events at PJC
- Frederick Douglass book discussion group, PJC
- Changing Mindset: Changing Community presentation at Sterling College, Craftsbury
- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression, Montpelier
- Mindfulness for Activists, PJC
- Climate Change and The Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies, PJC
- Peaceful Action against Police Violence, Winooski
- Nonviolent Activism 101 Workshop, Manchester
- Report back on World Beyond War conference, PJC