



2017 Annual Report

October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

peace justice center

research • policy • action

Dear Members,

It was a rough year for our country and it impacted Vermonters. People have been wounded, and scared. Lives have been upended. Our workload, as responsive community members, has increased.

It was also an inspiring and wondrous year. People took to the streets. People organized. People banded together. As a hub of activism, the Peace & Justice Center was able to support much of this work. Our team facilitated emergent events including the Science March, The Women’s March, and regional gatherings of activist groups. We expedited the formation of the new World Beyond War Coalition. We continued our specific campaigns of Peace, Racial Justice, and Fair Trade.

We worked with our members and program participants to continue to resist our mainstream culture of violence. And we worked to build a future that moves toward collective liberation with options for ethical consumption, increased awareness and ability to counter the ever-expanding militarization of our culture, and creating systems that connect us to each other.

We look forward to helping our community maintain the momentum that current events spurred. We must not let up and we are not going away.

Peace,

Rachel Siegel
Executive Director

“I have never thought so explicitly about the direct link between oppression and nonviolence. This workshop completely opened my eyes to their connection and why nonviolence is so powerful in fighting oppression.”
– **Nonviolent Activism 101 workshop participant.**

“This workshop helps me recognize the structure of white supremacy and how it exists within myself, my community, and our country as a whole.”
– **Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression workshop participant.**

“Being mindful, I believe, helps keep one able, in a healthy and pro-active way, to continue the marathon work of an activist.”
– **Mindfulness for Activists workshop participant.**

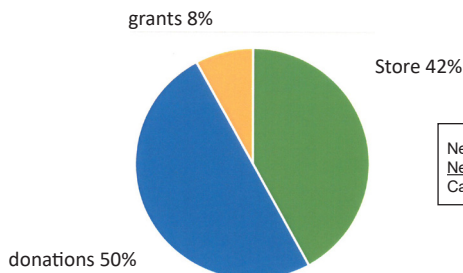
“My search for the resources I needed to make The Student Diversity Union at So Burlington High School successful brought me to the PJC. They offered their guidance, instruction, and mentorship. Inspired by them, I applied for an internship the following summer. It was one of the most educational and meaningful experiences I have had. The PJC has been monumental in helping me develop my voice and greatly uplifted my efforts to address and rid the school of the Rebel name.”
– **Isaiah Hines, former intern and recent So Burlington HS graduate.**

“The PJC has always played a significant role in the social justice-oriented community, but never have I seen it be so central to the overall community as it has become in the past few years. Its role has evolved into one responsible for crucial bridge-building, especially between racial and ethnic minority communities and law enforcement.”
– **Suzi Wizowaty, PJC member and founder of Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform.**

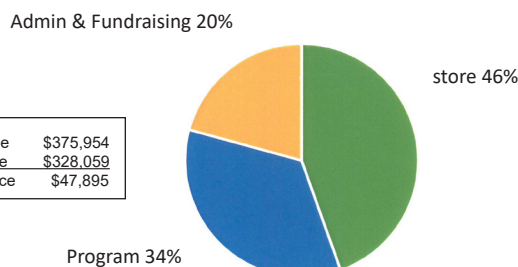


Financial Statement: October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

Revenues



Expenses



Net Revenue	\$375,954
Net Expense	\$328,059
Cash Balance	\$47,895

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

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STAFF 2016-2017

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**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.**



Peace & Justice Center Highlights 2016-2017

Emergent events included a Standing Rock Report Back Circle, a “Beyond the Safety Pin” workshop, and a pop-up street theater piece “What’s Really Going on in Yemen?”

PJC’s Annual events commemorated Armistice/Veterans’ Day, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, Tax Day Penny Poll, Loving Day, a Frederick Douglas reading for Independence Day, and more. We honored Rising Tide Vermont with our Annual Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award.

18 Nonviolence Education Programs included six iterations of Learning about Nonviolence: Children’s March of 1963 at locations including the Rokeby Museum, Brownell Library, and Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Fair Trade Programs included multiple iterations of the following presentations at locations including CCV in St Albans, Burlington, and Winooski; in-house for the public; and with specific primary and middle school groups.

- Free Trade vs Fair Trade
- Fair Trade Labels 101
- US Trade Agreements
- Banana Industry
- Cocoa Campaign

The Racial Justice Program included

- Three three-part discussion groups on How to Talk with Kids About Racism
- Five three-part workshops on Building Empathy & Addressing Racial Oppression
- Two versions of Privilege & Accountability for Aspiring Allies
- Film screenings of “I Am Not Your Negro” and “Agents of Change”
- Monthly drop-in discussion groups on Toxic Whiteness
- Presentations on white fragility in two dozen settings to almost 800 Vermonters.

Book discussions with Elizabeth Middich, Beverly Little Thunder, and Emily Bernard.

Tabling for Peace at seven high schools.

Additionally, because of members, we were able to

- host Emma’s Revolution, Amy Goodman, and Medea Benjamin;
- support Mayday/March for Dignity, Women’s and Science Marchs, and Indigenous People’s Day;
- work with Vermont Stands for a World Beyond War Coalition, CcaleoVT (Community Council for Accountability with Law Enforcement Officials), Raise the Wage, VT FaMLI Coalition, and Human Rights Council;
- record monthly Burlington Police Commission meetings;
- upgrade our website and get a new copier/printer;
- host groups such as Crossroads Mentoring, Walden School, and RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty;
- support Allied Groups such as Vermonters for Justice in Palestine, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, Clemmons Family Farm, Stop the F35s, and Milton Inclusion and Diversity Initiative;
- partner with VT-PBS, YWCA, Vermont Humanities Council, local libraries, and many others;
- support and informally advise student groups including Essex Middle School leadership team, PeaceJam in Winooski, the South Burlington Student Diversity Union, and more.

PJC events occurred in over 20 towns from Johnson to Manchester, Northfield to Milton, and many places in between.

19 New Volunteer Orientations helped us develop over 100 volunteers who worked over 4,000 hours. Additionally, we worked with 33 interns including both high school and college students who clocked a total of close to 3,000 hours. We couldn’t do it without you!

