



J O S H U A  
2010

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direction  
opportunity  
victory  
love

**moving forward together**

# A Message From Our President



2010 JOSHUA Board of Directors



Judith Vogels

## 2010 - What a year for JOSHUA!

It has been a year of many challenges. It has had times of great frustration, uncertainty, and confusion. But it has also been a year of solidarity, support and hope. It has been a year of opportunity and continued building of relationships among our faith communities and with members of the wider community. It has been a year in which since last March we have gathered monthly in prayer for wisdom, for creative thinking, for

understanding, for the building of right relationship and for a spirit of unity. We prayed in thankfulness for our diversity, and for the ability to unite in shared faith values. We prayed in thankfulness for the work of justice that has been given to us and we prayed for solutions to the many social justice needs in our community and for insight and courage as we go forward to address these needs.

Grounded by faith, grounded by prayer, grounded by love and respect for each other and hope for our community, we are moving forward together. We have restarted our TIP/TAD committee which is moving forward together to get a SSTOP program. We have expanded our immigration efforts to include a wider range of community members who are moving forward together to bring about fair and just changes for our immigrants. Our health care committee is inviting the community to look at all of the issues surrounding health, especially poverty, as we move forward to address issues of health inequities. JOSHUA instituted a new economic justice committee which is moving forward as it looks at housing and transportation needs of the poor in our community. This committee, members of our Workforce Housing Taskforce, our Religious Leaders and other JOSHUA members moved forward together with other community leaders to address the issue of unsheltered families in Brown County.

I am personally so grateful for all of the people of JOSHUA and of the community who are engaged in this work. I am also grateful for all the people who support our work through prayers, words, encouragement and financial support. It takes all of us moving forward together to create a strong, just community; to create our common future.

In gratitude and love,  
Judy

### 2010 JOSHUA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Judy Vogels

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Mike Westenberg  
Triella Talbott-Williams

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Bill Woods

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**Organizer**  
Season Westphal

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Sister Sally Ann Brickner

**Finance**  
Sister Rose Jochmann, Co-Chair  
Dick Vogels, Co-Chair

**Health Care**  
Rev. Marian Boyle, Chairperson

**Immigration Action**  
Gema Garcia, Chairperson

**JOSUE (Hispanic Core Team)**  
Claudia Gonzalez, Chairperson

**Religious Leaders Caucus**  
Rev. Sarah Johnsen, Chairperson

**TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison)**  
Tim Toepel, Chairperson

**Workforce Housing**  
Dick Vogels, Chairperson





# Meet Our Organizer

Season Westphal was recently named the new organizer for JOSHUA in Brown County. She began her new position September 27, 2010.



Season Westphal

Season is from Neenah, Wisconsin. After attending UW-Stevens Point for two years, she changed her major and transferred to UW-Oshkosh where she graduated with a major in Social Work in May of 2009. While finishing her degree, she interned for the Juvenile Corrections Program in Appleton.

Most recently Season worked for an insurance company performing needs assessments for the retirement community and building relationships with clients and their families.

Season states that her interest in social justice comes from her family. She has had the experience of seeing changes they helped make in the community by reaching out and standing up for what they believe as they worked on social justice issues. She also stated that her faith was instilled by her family and that they are her biggest supporters. She is a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Parish in Neenah.

Season has a three year old daughter. Her interests are spending time with her family and reading, and her passion is helping families in need. She is excited to begin her career as a faith-based community organizer and looks forward to helping to build the strong presence of JOSHUA in Brown County.

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### Web Sites

[www.joshua4justice.org](http://www.joshua4justice.org)  
[youtube.com/joshua4justice](http://youtube.com/joshua4justice)

### E-mail

[joshua4justice@gmail.com](mailto:joshua4justice@gmail.com)

### Office

130 St. Matthew St.  
Green Bay, WI 54301

### Phone

920.362.1511

## WISDOM's Prophetic Statement

We are people of faith united by our passion for justice, commitment to community and a practice of hope. We stand together understanding that our lives and destinies are intertwined.

We come together because God calls us into relationship with one another, with our communities and with the world around us.

We come together from across the state, across faith traditions, across race, class, gender and ethnicity, and across many divides that might ordinarily keep us apart.

We come together around core faith convictions that affirm our direction and shape our vision for the future.

We come together to act for justice, build power and to transform our communities, cities and state.

We stand together in our faith:

- We believe in the God-given dignity and infinite worth of each and every human life.
- We believe that we are each and all part of a sacred community, to which we have responsibility and from which we gain sustenance.
- We believe that our faith calls us to work for justice and liberation, standing against all forms of oppression and inequity.
- We believe we are called to be stewards of the natural world in all its bounty and diversity.
- We believe in shared abundance and stand against the dominant culture of reckless consumption and consumerism for some and deprivation for others.
- We believe in the triumph of love and hope over hate and fear.

We build power and act together, drawing courage and inspiration from our faith. We believe God has called us to live, speak and act courageously in accordance with our faith beliefs.

Together we will create the community we seek for ourselves, but also build the power we need to transform the world around us. We will build the relationships and strategic capacity we need to powerfully engage and impact public decisions.

Together we declare:

- Where there is division, we declare unity.
- Where there is hatred, we declare love.
- Where there is lack, we declare abundance.
- Where there is desolation, we declare renewal.
- Where there is discouragement, we declare hope.
- Where there is lack of strength, we declare power!

*JOSHUA is part of WISDOM, a statewide organization, of more than 125 member congregations.*

### [ **hope**

*There are always things to be fixed in our society; JOSHUA brings hope to the community—hope that positive change can occur and that people of faith can work together to achieve this.*

*Ray Shiffer  
Member of West Side Moravian Church and part of the Moravian-Nativity Core Team*





# 2010 Award Recipient JOSHUA SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD



A few of the 21 members of the Ascension Lutheran Church JOSHUA Core Team involved in the Home Sweet Home Ministry.



Home Sweet Home Project—  
furniture in member's basement



Home Sweet Home storage

## Ascension Lutheran Church JOSHUA CORE TEAM

In recognition of their vision and outstanding dedication and efforts in creating, developing, and sustaining the **Home Sweet Home** Project.

The idea for Home Sweet Home was conceived by Ascension Lutheran Church's JOSHUA core team while praying and brainstorming on different ways they could assist St. John's Homeless Shelter. One of the goals of the shelter is to get people into permanent housing. But the reality of the situation is that most of the guests literally only own the clothes on their back. If these homeless people were to be successful in transitioning to permanent housing, they would need assistance in gathering all of the "normal" household goods that many people take for granted, such as dishes, towels, pots and pans, bedding, furniture, etc. The Vision of the Ascension Lutheran Core Team was to gather these household goods and assist people as they moved out of the shelter setting.

There was one big obstacle in moving forward with this grand idea – a severe lack of storage space at the church. But as

with all that is good, God shall provide. And He did – one fine, fabulous fall day as He repeatedly whispered in one of the core team members' ears, "You have room." And so it began, Home Sweet Home. All of the "soft goods" are stored in the basement of the core team member's home and the large furniture pieces occupy two large units at a storage facility that has been provided for the group's use.

The ministry is beginning its third year in partnership with St. Johns Homeless Shelter and their dedicated staff. **Home Sweet Home** continues to thrive through the generosity of many area churches and their members, De Pere Christian Outreach Center, a prison ministry program which provides hand made laundry bags and hot pads, various community businesses which donate goods, and finally through the commitment of many, many volunteers in gathering, organizing, and delivering all of the items to the recipients. All of this generosity and goodwill has thus far supplied over 50 grateful individuals with the majority of their household needs - turning their empty dwellings into **Home Sweet Home**. To God be the glory!

## **Health Care Committee's Value Statement**

*Health is not a commodity that can be bought or sold. Health is a state of being. It calls for a process of nurturing the physical and mental well-being of all God's children, recognizing that every human life is of infinite value. Therefore, we believe that quality, accessible health care is a basic human right.*

## **[ spirit**

*The spirit leads us.*

*Jackie Thiry  
St. Matthew Parish,  
JOSHUA Health Care Committee*

As 2010 began we celebrated and affirmed our shared work in advocating for greater access to quality, affordable health care. We recognized the Health Care Committee's work was to now take a different shape and move in a new direction.

In the winter months of 2010 we learned that psychiatric and psychological assistance for children in Brown County is a pressing need. The Health Care Committee proceeded to meet with providers and service organizations in Brown County to assess possible actions to take.

Shared at the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) state-wide Wisconsin conference on support in the faith community for those living with mental illness.

In the spring months of 2010 the committee began the exploration of health equity. This involves looking at the social and economic factors that affect health such as transportation, income, race, and education (to name a few).

Fall of 2010 involved planning for an October 25th community health forum introducing to the larger JOSHUA community and other community leaders the concept of health equity. Jeanne Ayers of the Healthy Heartland Project spoke about the national reality of racial and social inequalities in health and participants viewed clips from the documentary "Unnatural Causes." The question "Is inequality making us sick in Brown County?" was posed and participants reflected on the many factors affecting health locally and on what steps could be taken to address the issue.

We invite your participation in the committee's future work. We meet the fourth Monday evening of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 1st United Methodist Church.





# JOSHUA TIP/TAD Committee

**Tim Toepel, Chairperson**

In 2010, JOSHUA's TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison)/TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversions) Committee restarted in order to focus on gathering consensus for the creation of a Safe Streets Treatment Option Program (SSTOP) in Brown County. This program allows for reduced incarceration time for people who are guilty of 2nd and 3rd Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offenses. In exchange, participants take part in a probation and treatment program that monitors them and ensures they are dealing with the causes of their behavior. It is somewhat similar to the successful Drug Court already in place in Brown County which JOSHUA supported in 2008.

As with the Drug Court, we were blessed with the tremendous support from Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt and Mike Olig, the administrator of SSTOP in Winnebago County. The SSTOP program has been operating successfully there for several years and has been found to significantly reduce recidivism rates.

Judge Woldt, Mike Olig and a "graduate" of the Winnebago Alcohol Court program presented information on the history of SSTOP, how it operates, and its benefits at a JOSHUA forum held on September 7th at St. Willebrord Catholic Parish before an audience of about 80 people, consisting of Brown County public officials and interested citizens.

At the Forum, Brown County Circuit Judge Donald Zuidmulder relayed the support of Brown County judges for the program. Brown County Executive Tom Hinz expressed his support for the program in principle, but cited concerns about its funding. He noted that he was impressed by the low recidivism rate among graduates of the program, which could ultimately save Brown County taxpayers millions of dollars by eliminating the need for the construction of an addition to the Brown County Jail.

The Forum received excellent coverage by local media. The next step for the TIP/TAD Committee is to help local officials get the program started in Brown County. Much work remains before SSTOP becomes a reality but we are encouraged by growing support for the program and are committed to seeing it through.



*TIP/TAD Committee*



*SSTOP forum*



*Mike Olig at SSTOP forum*



*Winnebago County Judge Woldt speaks at SSTOP forum*

## [ action

*JOSHUA empowers people of faith to get involved in their community to build a web of relationships that engage others to work for the common good.*

*Mike Westenberg  
St. Matthew Parish,  
Vice President JOSHUA*

# JOSHUA Economic Justice Committee

**Sister Sally Ann Brickner, Chairperson**



*A few members of the  
Economic Justice Committee*

## [ **community**

*JOSHUA is involved with  
a community of people of all  
faiths and colors, living under  
the same laws, and having  
the same rights.*

*Betty Fierros  
Immigration Action Taskforce*

Throughout its history, members of JOSHUA have addressed various concerns that relate directly or indirectly to economic justice. For example, JOSHUA supported St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter in its appeal to the Green Bay City Council for a conditional use permit. Members appeared before County Board committees when the budget for social services – and especially Section 8 housing vouchers – was being debated. In spring of this year, JOSHUA advocated for statewide regulation of payday lending institutions, and celebrated the passage of the bill on June 2, 2010.

JOSHUA's mission involves looking at the structures that affect the choices available to individuals and determining whether or not systemic change is needed. JOSHUA's Board recognized that a specific committee focusing on economic justice would be beneficial. It would fill a gap that JOSHUA's other issue-based committees were unable to address because of their particular concerns. Thus, on June 9, 2010 the Economic Justice Committee was convened and since then has met monthly. The group requested that the Religious Leaders of JOSHUA assist the Committee by sharing their respective churches' theological teachings on economic justice. Based on their input, the Committee will formulate its mission and vision. In the interim, the Committee has studied the Bay Area Community Council's report on poverty. It has met with some service providers in the community who identified three major economic challenges: housing, medical care, and transportation. Of these, the Economic Justice Committee has chosen to study housing.

This fall, JOSHUA learned of a crisis with homelessness among families. In the month of September, the Green Bay Public School District identified eight families that were without shelter for at least one night. Other districts also have issues with homeless students. In response, the Economic Justice Committee is helping JOSHUA to mobilize stakeholders within the community. Social service workers and persons knowledgeable about housing have prepared a plan of how to provide secure and affordable housing for homeless families so that their children can attend school. JOSHUA has brought community leaders together to hear the plan and to provide monetary support.





# Immigration Action Taskforce

**Gema Garcia, Chairperson**

JOSHUA's Immigration Committee reconvened in the spring of 2010 to continue its work. In April, they joined a statewide effort to collect signatures on the importance of immigrant labor to Wisconsin's milk industry to be given to legislators. In May the group met with Sister Melanie of St. Willebrord Catholic Parish about bringing together a wider community group of people interested in immigration issues. In June the expanded Immigration Action Taskforce met for the first time.

Three areas were determined to be the work of this taskforce:

1. education about immigration issues within the taskforce and for the wider community;
2. building relationships within the taskforce; between the taskforce and the members of the immigrant community, and relationships with individuals in the public arena;
3. taking action for change for immigrant rights in the area of legislation by advocating for fair, just immigration laws. Advocating for Driver's Cards in Wisconsin will become one of the issues of this committee. The group also shares information on immigration events in the area.

Mayor Jim Schmitt addressed the taskforce in September on his views on immigration reform. He also heard members speak of their concerns regarding the lack of immigrant voices in decision making in the city and concerns about ethnic profiling. Although he was hesitant to support Drivers' Cards State Legislation at this time, he is willing to consider the issue as it pertains to public safety when it comes up again in the state legislature.

In October, Chief Deputy Sheriff John Gossage met with the taskforce to speak about the sequence of events that occurs when a foreign born national is arrested and placed in the Brown County Jail and automatically flagged by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). He spoke about the need to get information to families on the placement of the individuals and on the process involved. He responded to many questions and voiced support for Drivers' Cards.

The Immigration Action Taskforce and JOSUE also co-sponsored a voter education forum for Hispanic Voters on October 29th.

## JOSHUA Religious Leaders Caucus

**Rev. Sarah Johnsen, Chairperson**

The Religious Leaders Caucus of JOSHUA is comprised of clergy and religious leaders who are supportive of the work of JOSHUA. They meet the first Thursday of the month, September thru May for lunch, reflection, prayer and support.

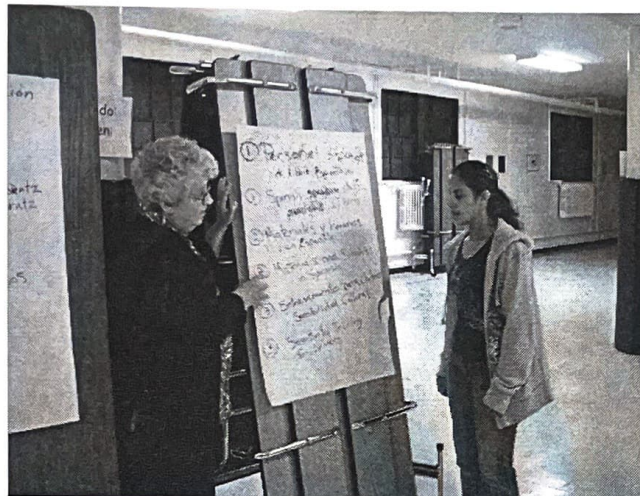
Many of the religious leaders are from congregations that are not yet members of JOSHUA. By participating in this group they are able to learn more about JOSHUA, share the information about issues with their faith communities, encourage participation and ultimately membership.

This year the new Economic Justice Committee has asked the religious leaders to work on developing a theological statement. The group has also solicited financial support from all Brown County faith communities for providing shelter for homeless children.



*West Moravian-Nativity Core Team*





*Barbara Pfarr and Claudia Gonzalez plan agenda for JOSUE meeting*

JOSUE is a core team within JOSHUA for Hispanic residents of Brown County. They meet the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at St. Phillip Catholic Church. The meetings are primarily in Spanish but all are invited to attend.

JOSUE began its agenda for 2010 by organizing monthly bilingual Prayer Vigils for issues of immigration affecting our nation, state, community and area families. At first these Vigils were held outside in the cold winter but beginning in March they were moved indoors. They are currently held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at St. Willebrord Catholic Parish.



*Chris Bratz from Green Bay Metro and Fernando Campos at JOSUE bus forum*

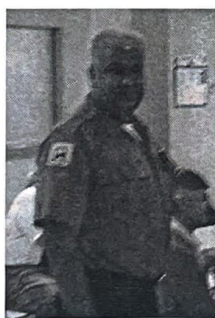


*Miguel Gomez at JOSUE meeting*

In January JOSUE also hosted a bilingual Leadership Training Event which focused on doing one-on-ones and on basic organizing skills. This was followed by other training events in April and May focused on organizing meetings and determining and organizing issues. Because of concerns regarding the inability of some to obtain drivers' licenses, it was decided to focus on use of the bus system and on asking the bus system to become more helpful to Hispanic riders. On July 9th JOSUE held a well attended forum and training with the METRO bus company and asked the representative to take back 3 requests to management involving Spanish translation services to be available on all shifts, Spanish language materials on using the system and for sensitivity training on culture for Metro drivers. The Metro representative reported back to JOSUE at their September meeting that Spanish Language Inserts for route schedules and brochures had been developed; that they had not been able to hire a bilingual dispatcher; and that they would consider including cultural training in their fall customer service training. He also agreed to continue working with JOSUE.



*Members of JOSUE meet with the bus company*



*Fernando Campos*

In April JOSUE joined a statewide effort to collect milk cartons and signatures on the importance of immigrant labor to Wisconsin's milk industry to be given to legislators. JOSUE held their annual blood drive with the Red Cross in July. They held a meeting relating to car insurance on October 27 and on October 29th co hosted a Voter Education forum with the Immigration Action Network. This forum focused both on the process of voting and on the issues involved.



# Other Initiatives



JOSHUA

## HEARTS FOR Haiti

On Valentine's Day, hundreds of people came together to hear local performers "sing their hearts out" to raise funds for relief efforts in Haiti. "Hearts for Haiti" was sponsored by JOSHUA and the Neville Public Museum. Event-goers enjoyed the

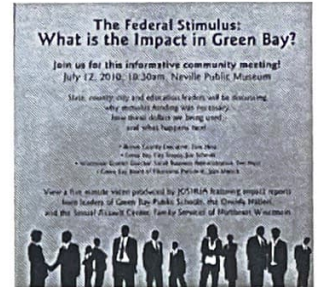
eclectic sounds of the Hollands, folksinger Skip Jones, the lively band Mariachi Nuevo Amanecer, the old-time Sczrombacque String Band and American roots songs of Yellow House Road. People also enjoyed making their own music with "Rhythms and Tunes with Ms. Taku."

Artists Mary Schall, Judy Gosz, and Jan Green invited people to "Make a Heart for Haiti," taking the individual valentines and combining them into two large murals which were displayed at the Brown Co. Central Library as a way to keep the people of Haiti in the heart of our community. The event raised over \$3000 for the local Green Bay organization, Friends of Haiti. Everything for the event, including the delicious refreshments and prizes for drawings, were donated so that 100% of the proceeds could go to support the work of Friends of Haiti. Several representatives from the group were on hand for the event, giving presentations on their life-changing experiences of going to Haiti to bring medical supplies and needed resources. Many of the people going on the trips are doctors who offer their services.



## JOSHUA Public Forum on Impact of the Federal Stimulus Sparks Intense Dialogue

On July 12th, 2010 JOSHUA partnered with several community organizations to host a public forum on the impact of the federal stimulus funding on Green Bay. State, county, city, and education leaders shared their mixed assessments of the effects of the funding, which led to an intense Q & A session with the 100-member audience. Green Bay City Mayor Jim Schmitt was highly critical, citing how the stimulus fell short of funding new jobs. Brown County Executive Tom Hinz and Green Bay Board of Education President Jean Marsch identified jobs that were retained despite the recession and the stabilizing effect on the budgets they oversee.



A JOSHUA-produced video, created by Tim Toepel, provided specific instances of how the stimulus funding is making a difference. The video featured interviews with administrators in the Green Bay Public Schools, the Oneida Nation, the Sexual Assault Center of Family Services, and the Brown County Planning Department.

The LOG, UW-Green Bay Campus Online newsletter, summarized the event: "Forum was a success, but verdict mixed on stimulus itself." Positive results for JOSHUA include:

- 1) contributing to the continuing dialogue concerning the current stimulus funding and possible future funding initiatives
- 2) delivering an effective program in partnership with the League of Women Voters and the UWGB Center for Public Affairs.



## Who We Are

### Faith Communities Who Have Covenanted Together To Be JOSHUA

Ascension Lutheran  
First United Methodist  
Green Bay Area  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Fox Valley Friends Meeting  
JOSUE  
Nativity Catholic Parish  
Old St. Joe's Catholic Parish  
Peace Lutheran  
St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
St. Bernard Catholic Parish  
St. Phillip Catholic Parish  
St. John the Evangelist  
Catholic Parish  
St. Matthew Catholic Parish  
Salvation Army Church  
Sisters of St. Francis  
of the Holy Cross  
Union Congregational Church  
West Moravian Church

### Friend Congregations and Agencies

First Presbyterian Church,  
Green Bay  
Hispanic Community Council  
NEWAMMA  
North East Wisconsin PAN  
(Prison Aftercare Network)  
St. Willebrord Catholic Parish

**JOSHUA gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following individuals, foundations, businesses and faith communities for their generous support in 2010.**

## Sustaining Members and Contributors

Betty Anderle  
Rosemary Baloun  
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become a sustaining  
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Or call 920.362.1511.**

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Norman Miller Family Foundation  
Open Society Institute

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Thank you to Webfitters, LLC  
for hosting our web site.

Thank you to Vogels Buckman  
Appraisal Group, Inc. for  
updating office equipment.

Thank you to the JOSHUA  
members who contribute supplies  
including postage. You help keep  
our expenses down.

Thank you to the many JOSHUA  
members who contribute food  
for our events. You help us  
bring people, conversation  
and fellowship together.

A very special thank you to  
St. Matthew Catholic Parish for  
giving us a place to call home  
in their parish office building  
and for the kind relationships  
between their staff and  
JOSHUA.

Sincere thank you to our faithful  
friends and members:

Katina Daanen of Indigo  
Design for donating her  
skills and time to JOSHUA in  
preparation, formatting and  
design of this yearbook and  
for designing a new banner.

Abbie Nordholm of Allegra  
Printing for her assistance  
and expertise in printing not  
only this yearbook but also  
helping with other printing  
needs of JOSHUA.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 ADVERTISERS. PLEASE SUPPORT  
THEIR BUSINESS AND LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD  
IN THE JOSHUA YEARBOOK.





JOSHUA



Barbara McClure-Lukens gets ready for the Sustainers Breakfast



JOSHUA Sustainers Breakfast



Judge Zuidmulder speaks about the drug court at the Sustainers' Breakfast

# Financial Statement

## Summary of JOSHUA Financials

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>Financial Statement</b>	<b>As of 10/15/201</b>
	<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$22,361</b>
		<b>\$21,634</b>
<b>Income</b>		
	Congregation dues	\$10,600
	Individual donors	\$8,200
	Other income	\$14,790
	Grassroots fundraising	\$1,541
	Designated grants	\$214
	Undesignated grants	\$4,885
		\$12,500
		\$12,240
		<u>\$5,000</u>
		\$56,169
		\$39,739
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Staffing	\$34,000
	Travel expenses	\$23,161
	WISDOM dues	\$415
	Office expense	-
	Training	\$14,725
	Insurance	\$10,000
	Local events	\$1,689
	Misc.	\$1,092
		\$300
		\$70
		\$145
		\$144
		<u>\$2,697</u>
		-
		\$56,896
		\$34,842
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	(\$727)	\$4,897
	<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$21,634</b>
		<b>\$26,531</b>

### [ inspiration

*JOSHUA moves the intellect and emotions of others while prompting action. JOSHUA inspires others to make change and move forward together to better the community.*

*Season Westphal  
JOSHUA Organizer*

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GREEN BAY AREA  
UNITARIAN  
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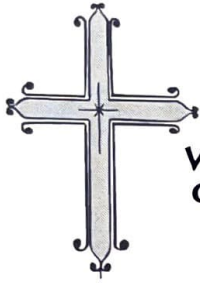
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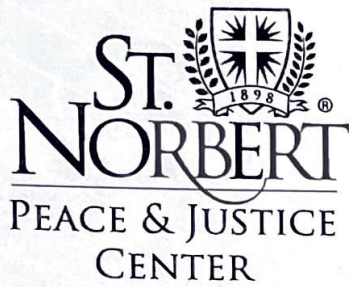
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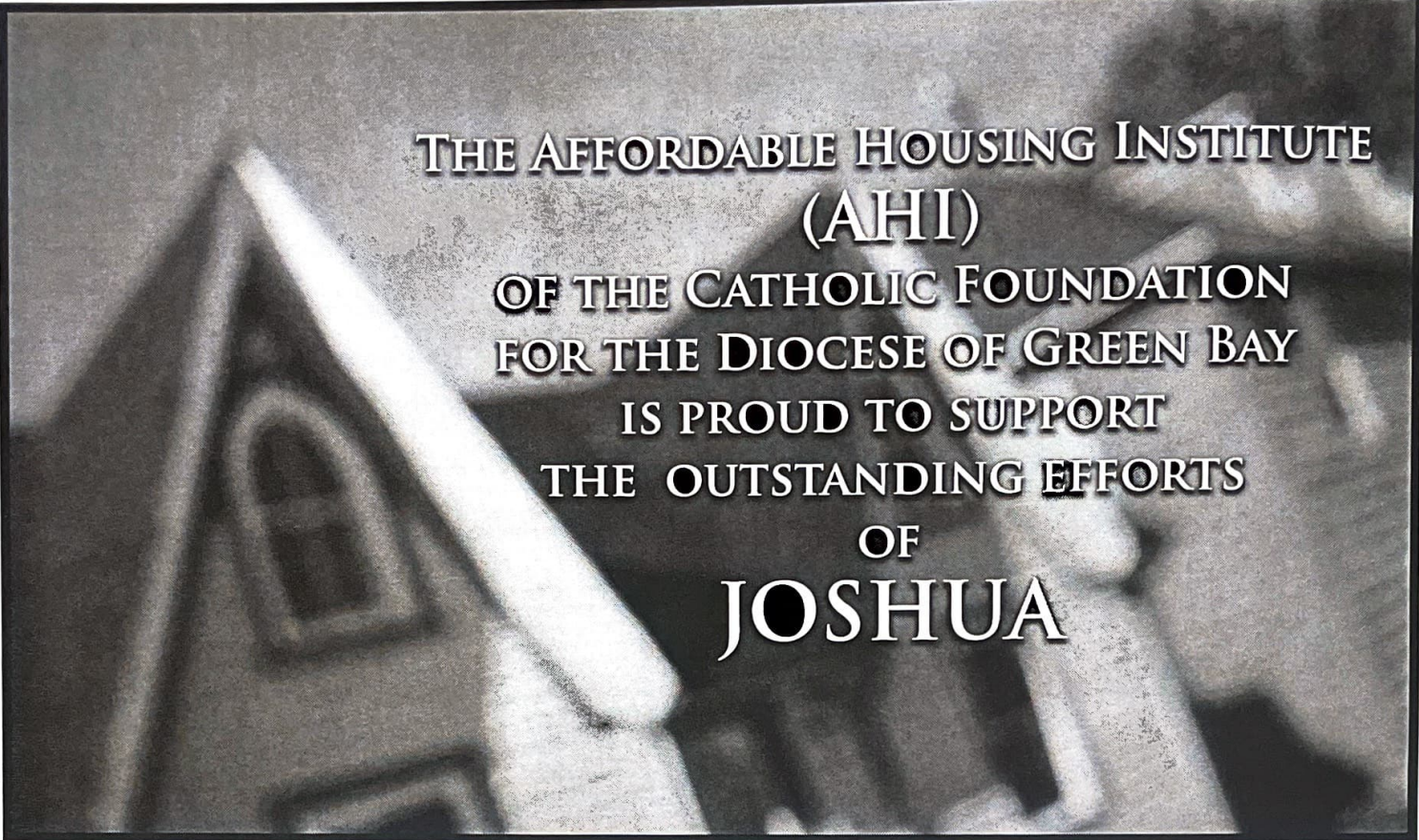
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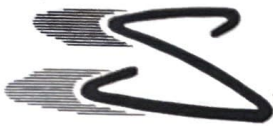
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Thank you JOSHUA, for all you do to promote social justice in our community

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# what is JOSHUA?

JOSHUA is a coalition of faith communities in Brown County dedicated to building and deepening relationships within and among faith communities. It empowers people to work together on issues of justice and community building. JOSHUA builds relationships in the public and private sector in order to advance issues which represent our common faith values.

JOSHUA dedicates itself to celebrating and respecting our diversity and our varied faith traditions. While we do not agree on every matter, JOSHUA seeks to unite our members around those faith values of justice on which we do agree and which bring us together.

Because our diverse faith traditions tell us to stand up for the poor, the sick, and the marginalized, JOSHUA works to impact public policies that affect those who are most vulnerable. JOSHUA uses the tools of education (helping people understand how their faith impacts issues affecting their community); advocacy (speaking with a common voice for our values); empowerment (ordinary people learning to effectively participate in issues of justice); and action (moving beyond the walls of our churches to make our presence felt and to transform our community).

JOSHUA membership is by faith community or organization. JOSHUA functions through a Board of Directors with representation from every member congregation or institution. In addition to the Board, JOSHUA works through other committees and groups.

Each month pastors and other religious leaders gather at the religious leaders caucus to build relationships, to reflect on matters of faith and community concerns, to have opportunity for prayer, learning and encouragement, and to provide the spiritual foundation for JOSHUA and to help shape it.

Issues committees meet monthly to research, educate and propose impact strategies and actions around issues of community concern which have been approved by the Board of Directors. Some of these concerns relate to housing, health, immigration, restorative justice, economic justice and others.

JOSHUA is based on building relationships and within member congregations there are core teams which meet monthly to respond to the concerns and passions of their congregations. Core Team members are intentional about meeting one-on-one with people in their congregation and in the public arena, to foster mutual understanding and clarity of purpose. All of the core teams of every member community are invited to meet periodically for large group gatherings.

JOSHUA supports itself through dues paid by congregations, "sustaining members" (individuals), fundraising and grants from foundations. JOSHUA is a 501 (c)3 organization. Charitable contributions to JOSHUA are tax-deductible.

JOSHUA is part of WISDOM, a statewide organization, of more than 125 member congregations. Our nearest WISDOM neighbor is ESTHER in the Fox Valley. Other sister organizations are AMOS in LaCrosse, CUSH in Kenosha, JONAH in Eau Claire, MICAH in Milwaukee, NAOMI in Wausau, RIC in Racine, and SOPHIA in Waukesha.

Leadership training is a major component of congregational-based organizing. Members of JOSHUA are eligible for various leadership training opportunities at the local, state and national levels in both English and Spanish.

JOSHUA is non-partisan. JOSHUA does not endorse candidates. We have members from all political parties, and we believe in the need to hold public officials accountable, no matter what party they represent.

## Our Mission Statement

**JOSHUA deepens relationships within and among congregations and empowers people to act together for justice in pursuit of their individual and collective interests.**



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