



IN THE LOOP

RACINE INTERFAITH COALITION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPECIAL



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Racine Interfaith Coalition is happy to introduce our first ever quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to expand our reach to current and new members by sharing the work our task force leaders and many other volunteers are doing with continued strength through faith and power in community.

Here, you can expect to receive important updates about our upcoming meetings and events, ongoing advocacy and collaborative impact throughout southeastern Wisconsin and across the state. As we move through 2021, we are excited to bring to the work Amanda Ali who will produce this newsletter to give the entire community a better view of the work we do for justice.

For updates in between e-news, join us on social media. Take a look at what's new at Racine Interfaith Coalition this quarter!

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS, LINDA BOYLE & TAMMY HAYWARD

Along with so many others, we were heartbroken to see the extent to which 2020 brought crisis and hardship to so many people. But we have experienced powerful moments as well, due to the creativity and faithful work of our RIC members and leaders. Throughout 2020 we were able to hold events virtually and also held a "Food Truck Banquet" with speakers Scott Terry and Jessica Diaz talking about working for racial justice. We were able to continue virtually so far this year with our annual January Retreat and our Love and Justice Breakfast where we had a successful bakery auction. We honored Carl Fields at this time for his work as Organizer for Ex-Incarcerated Persons Organizing (EXPO) and for much more of the work he does across the community.

We also look forward to events such as another Food Truck Event, a Sustaining Member Luncheon, a Banquet and other events in whatever form possible. Through this tumultuous summer, we participated in many efforts related to racial justice including supporting Scott Terry's "Black Humanity Now" street mural and participating in peaceful marches in Racine and Kenosha following the death of George Floyd and the shooting of Jacob Blake. In the fall we traveled to Burlington, holding a press conference and prayer vigil in support of our newest task force, the Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism, and their efforts to lessen bullying and racial injustice in the Burlington School District.

We continue to work with our state organization, WISDOM, and our national organization, Gamaliel, on issues related to transformational justice. In August, we brought together 23 organizations to work on the issue of systemic racism and are jointly working with them on efforts to eliminate suspensions and expulsions in the public schools which often pushes children into the school to prison pipeline. We continue our partnership with the Dominican Center for Justice Resources where we recently completed a year-long set of programs related to racial justice.

Other projects will continue such as the Immigrant Support Initiative that has helped over 130 families who are not eligible for government assistance with food, rent and utilities. This need grows as time passes as the pandemic continues to devastate our community. Projects will also continue around voting rights, mental health, education, systemic racism, and immigrant rights. We continue to advocate for changes in local and state laws and ordinances when we believe it is necessary to achieve our vision and mission, but our objectives are always humanitarian, never partisan. We believe power comes from collective action and we welcome to the work all faith communities as well as individuals who share our vision, mission and values. As Co-Presidents we thank our members, volunteers, and the community for supporting RIC's efforts to bring equity, compassion, inclusion, and justice to our Beloved Community and we look forward to working together in 2021 to continue to support these goals.

Co-Presidents
Linda Boyle
Tammy Hayward

FROM OUR TASK FORCE

advocating and supporting the beloved community

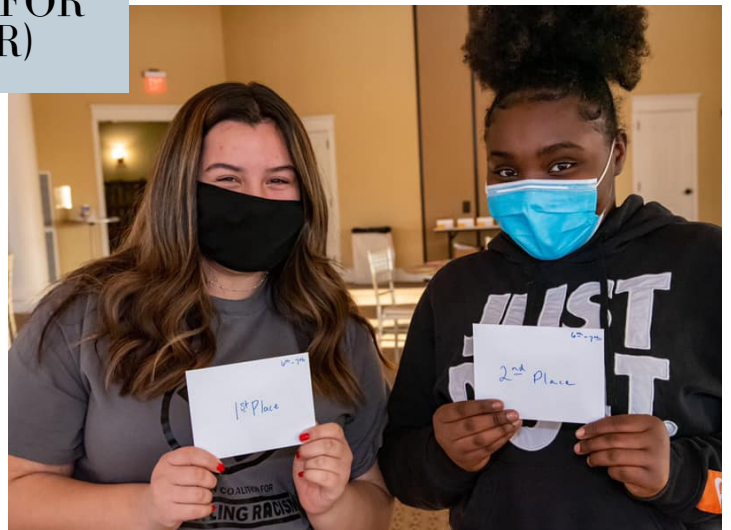
EDUCATION



The education task force has set four clear goals to anchor their work: 1) Become a trusted source of factual and unbiased information about pre-K to grade 12 education in Racine, 2) Support and advocate for solutions that increase the health and welfare of children in our community, 3) Support existing programs and develop new strategies to reduce the disproportionate level at which minority children fail to thrive in our public schools, 4) Advocate for appropriate and sufficient funding for public schools

THE BURLINGTON COALITION FOR DISMANTLING RACISM (BCDR)

The Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism (BCDR) culminated the year with "A Year In Review" that looked back on all the organization accomplished in 2020, a year of significant growth for the Coalition. In addition to bringing diversity programming to the Burlington Area School District (BASD) and the broader Burlington community, BCDR also drafted a comprehensive antiracism policy to push for systemic change in the district. Now, BCDR is in the midst of forging a partnership with Burlington officials to help the effort to make Burlington a better place to live for BIPOC.



IMMIGRATION

In response to the pandemic, a website was created to help immigrants who were suffering because they were not eligible to receive any government support. More than \$30,000 was used to help more than 130 families with rent, utilities, and groceries. In addition, they are working with Carthage law students to take courses that help immigrants with paperwork.



FROM OUR TASK FORCE

advocating and supporting the beloved community

RESTORING OUR COMMUNITIES (ROC) & EX-INCARCERATED PERSONS ORGANIZING (EXPO)



Carl Fields with Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) and Pastor Prentiss Robbins with Restoring Our Communities (ROC) have been working on practical solutions for disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in Racine through one-to-one conversations with support from the education task force. Through these conversations, they have worked on addressing concerns regarding visitation rights in the Racine County Jail and helping women and men recently released stay out of prison. By building strong relationships, they hope to achieve equitable justice.

If you would like to get involved, email ricracine1993@gmail.com and join us!

YOUTH

The youth task force is a group of individuals ages 12-21 who are focused on improving their local community by helping those in need. They provide opportunities for involvement to youth. So far, they created an Instagram page encouraging young voters to register and vote. They also met with local officials about voter suppression and the importance of the youth vote. Later in 2021, they hope to be able to meet in person and address issues impacting youth.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

The purpose of this task force is to bring awareness to issues and the relationships between mental health, poverty, and wellness. In 2021, they plan to hold a series of bimonthly webinars for community members that address questions about the COVID-19 vaccinations and ways to reduce stress related to issues of grief, isolation and economic stress. Stay tuned!



About Us

Our Mission

A Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail.

Our Vision

To inspire and mobilize faith-based congregations to address issues of economic and social injustice through education, advocacy and community organizing.

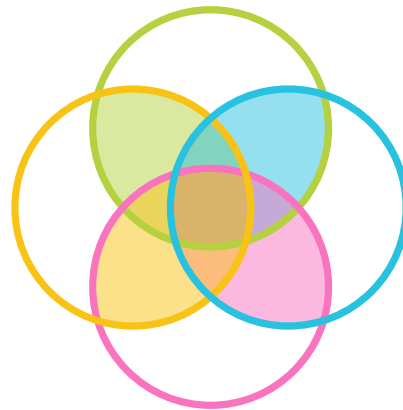
Our Values

Faith.
Compassion.
Inclusion.
Commitment.
Cooperation.
Respect.

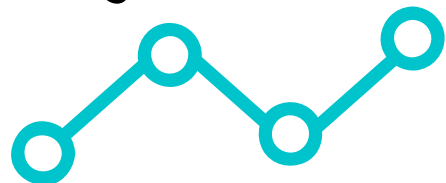
RIC Quick Facts



6 taskforces



28 years old



over 75 committed volunteers
34 representative board members
8 executive board members



Support Us

Racine Interfaith Coalition is dedicated to promoting inclusion, racial, social and economic justice for all.

click here >

For mail donations you can send check to "Racine Interfaith Coalition" at 2302A Dekoven Ave.

For immigration fund donations please write "immigration" in notes



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Education Task Force
 - Second Tuesday of the month - 10:00 a.m.
- Immigration Task Force
 - Second Tuesday of the month - 6:00 p.m.
- Youth Task Force - varies
- Health and Wellness Task Force - tentative
- Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism
 - Every other Sunday 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ROC/EXPO Task Force - varies
- Madison Action Day
 - April 15 - 9:00 a.m.

Email Virginia at ricracine1993@gmail.com for questions or more information.

Donate online

Donate to Immigration fund

Sign up to volunteer

Become a sustaining member



Get in Touch



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Racine, WI 53403
262-635-9532



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www.ricracine.org



[/ricracine](https://www.facebook.com/ricracine)

Current Donor & Sustaining Member Highlights

- Amanda Boyle
- Amy Harrison
- Amy Larsen
- Ann Marie Poulsen
- Art & Nancy Smith
- Barbara Presser
- Belinda Thielen
- Betty Brenneman
- Bill Schalk
- Bob Henzl
- Bob Wirch
- Brenda Trumbauer
- Bryon Spencer
- Cara Pratt
- Cherie A. Lyford
- Chester & Ruth Melcher
- Connie Cobb Madsen
- Connie Molbeck
- Daniel & Marcia Laehr-Tenuta
- David Kleba
- David & Barbara Zirkelbach
- Debra Hall
- Don & Julie Burton
- Don and Cheryl Mueller
- Elaine Marie Kinch
- Nikki Fisher
- Glenda Alexander
- Greg Petro
- Greta Neubauer
- Helen Zelinger
- Jaime Nolla
- James & Linda Haack
- Janet Elizinga
- Jean Smith
- Jean Verber
- Jeff & Mary Siuta
- Jerold Hershberger
- Jewel Jones
- Joan Roehre
- Joannie & Warren Williams
- Jody Spencer
- John & Cathie Lehman
- John Scott
- Joseph & Sharon Cushing
- Judy Quinn
- Karen Kunesh
- Karen Larsen
- Kathleen Laru
- Ken & Kenda Dues
- Kimberly Payne
- Linda Boyle
- Lorraine Lee
- Louis & Kathleen Peterson
- Margaret Andrietsch
- Maria Paula Voelkel
- Mark Lukow
- Mary Ruffalo
- Mary Hope Skalitzky
- Mary Janz
- Mary Totero
- MaryBeth Zuhlke
- Meline & Avak Grigorian
- Merry Demske
- Michael Mueller
- Mike & Anne Frontier
- Nancy Egghert
- Nancy Holmlund
- Nick Akgulian
- Patricia Ruppe
- Patty Walker
- Pauline Mitchell
- Renee Billman
- Richard Glasenapp
- Robert & Rachel Trobaugh
- Robert Henzl
- Robert Bagley
- Robery Reinders
- Ron Thomas
- Sandra Roberts
- Sandy Veit
- Scott Terry
- Sharon Janus
- Susan Barbee
- Susan Janecky
- Susan Proctor
- Susan Spicer
- Tamerin Hayward
- Thomas & Mary Flanagan
- Tom & Marcia Buhler
- Trevor Jung
- Wally Herman
- Wayne Johnson & Marge Miller
- Wendy Wise
- William Garvey & Diane Lange
- Yeprem & Judy Kelegian

And thank you to the many supporters of our Racine Immigrant Support Initiative!



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**“You are
never too
small to
make a
difference.”**

**- Greta
Thunberg**