



IN THE LOOP

RACINE INTERFAITH COALITION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPECIAL



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Racine Interfaith Coalition is happy to continue our 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 through 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.

For updates in between e-news, join us on social media and don't forget to check out our new website! Take a look at what's new at Racine Interfaith Coalition this quarter!

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

RIC had a very successful “Love and Justice (Make your own) Breakfast” in February which brought in \$4800 from our clergy bakery auction. Many thanks to the bakers who supplied the gorgeous items for us to auction, the many generous bidders and the 60+ people who joined us online! Carl Field’s presentation was excellent and we have gotten many compliments for it. It is recorded and on our website if you did not hear it that day. Our community service award went to Wally Herman, member of RIC’s executive board and representative from St. Luke’s church. He volunteers at the Hospitality Center’s Clothes Closet, the Food Pantry by HALO, the HOPES CENTER, and many more places in Racine. He is truly a “Volunteer Extraordinaire”!

We have also been very involved with the Afghan Resettlement effort and there are now three groups living in Racine. Two are family groups with 5 people and 6 family members respectively. The third is composed of three men. All the adults are enrolled and attending ESL classes at Gateway and our first school age child is attending kindergarten at RUSD where she gets ESL assistance every day.

They are being helped with acquiring Social Security cards, W2, Food Stamps, Badger Care and setting up checking accounts as well as help riding the bus and buying groceries. All the adults are anxious to work as soon as they reach English proficiency and they love learning. Thank goodness for Google Translate and Bing Translate as Pashto is not an easy language!

Our annual Ad Book which contains our Report to our RIC friends and Congregations is underway. If you are connected with a business or know someone who is, please send them our way as this is a big fundraiser for us. Members of our 28 congregations will see this Ad Book as well as many others at our events all year. Happy Spring!

With our sincere gratitude for all of your support,
Linda Boyle and Tammy Hayward
Co-Presidents

FROM OUR TASK FORCE

advocating and supporting the beloved community

EDUCATION



The LeadFree Racine project of the Education Task Force is continuing to heat up. A presentation was given to the West Racine Kiwanis and other presentations are scheduled for this summer, including participation in a health and safety fair sponsored by a local congregation. Other aspects of the project are scheduled to launch on April 14, including a news release and a video and distribution to schools, neighborhoods and day care facilities of the flier in Spanish and English. The group is also contacting health care facilities to make sure physicians are ensuring that children are tested at least three times before they are three years of age. If you would like to become involved in this important project, email Education Task Force Chair Nikki Fisher at efisher@wi.rr.com.

RESTORING OUR COMMUNITIES (ROC)

Restoring Our Communities continue to work on practical solutions for disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in Racine through one-to-one conversations with support from the education task force. ROC is currently undergoing a reset process through the statewide organization, WISDOM. Please stay connected with us to learn more about this process.



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IMMIGRATION



First our Law Project, which involves completing paperwork for immigrants, has moved into the next phase. The next phase of the project is for the Department of Justice to give us Accreditation. Then we will be able to begin our mini clinics at the RIC Office. Our second project is to work with Olympia Brown United Universalist Church on their Asylum Project. The UU Church plans to sponsor

an asylum-seeking family from the Norther Triangle of Central American which includes Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. RIC has offered to help with fundraising and disseminating information. Our third project is helping Afghan Refugees through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Lutheran Social Services places Refugees in this area of Wisconsin. We have already placed 3 families in the Racine area and supporting others in Kenosha.

EX-INCARCERATED PERSONS ORGANIZING (EXPO)

Expo had a great turn out for there People in Politics event in Kenosha at the Collective Barbershop. The next event will be held April 4th from 12pm-4pm in Racine, WI at the Mahogany Art Gallery, RIC is a sponsor for this event.



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THE BURLINGTON COALITION FOR DISMANTLING RACISM (BCDR)

The Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism (BCDR) President Laura Bielefeldt recently joined the Core Team for the Mayor's Burlington Task Force on Racial Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. BCDR opted to reverse its earlier decision not to participate in order to push for greater transparency and help drive true change. In addition, BCDR also celebrated Black History

Month in February by bringing programming to Burlington for the second year in a row. In addition to hosting a virtual event with The Innocence Project, BCDR also organized its second annual Black History Month Art & Essay Contest in partnership with the Burlington Area School District (BASD) to showcase our children's thoughtfulness and their hopes and dreams for a racially just world. Participants in the 2022 Art and Essay Contest were asked to reflect on a quote from Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb":

YOUTH

Last summer, RIC hosted a college readiness workshop series led by graduate student Lena Ali. She covered topics such as career assessments, college affordability, college planning and transition from high school to college. These sessions were offered virtually and some sessions aimed to include parent involvement and insight into the process as well to ensure youth are succeeding. We had about 8 students consistently participate and review the materials and take the quizzes. We hope to take on these sessions again in the future!



GET OUT THE VOTE

Visit myvotewi.gov for all voter information



It's election year and there are many important races up for election including school board, county board, governor and state senator. You can find the key dates for upcoming elections below and find information such as your polling location, your registration status and what is on your ballot by visiting myvote.wi.gov.

The RIC Turn Up The Vote (TUTV) Team is leading nonpartisan efforts by preparing materials for literature drops, social media campaigns, rides to the polls, a voter hotline, and text banking opportunities coming up in 2022! Stay tuned to learn more! If you would like to get involved, email us at ricraciner1993@gmail.com. Don't forget to get out the vote!

Spring Election - April 5, 2022

Partisan Primary - August 9, 2022

General - November 8, 2022

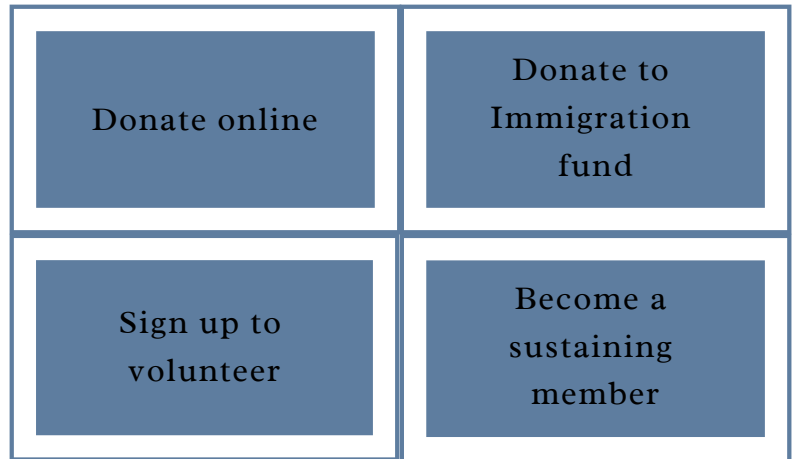
Support Us

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 Thursday of the month - 10:00 a.m.
- Immigration Task Force
 - Second Tuesday of the month - 6:00 p.m.
- Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism
 - Every other Sunday 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ROC/EXPO Task Force-varies
- Youth Task Force-varies
- EXPO People in Politics
 - April 4 from 12-4pm at Mahogany Art Gallery
- Introduction to Community Organizing- WISDOM
 - April 13-May 11 (every Wednesday) from 6:30-8:00pm through Zoom. Register at: <https://bit.ly/organizerbasics101>



Get in Touch



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Check out our new website!
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
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- Susan Janecky
- Susan Proctor
- Susan Spicer
- Tamerin Hayward
- Thomas & Mary Flanagan
- Tom & Marcia Buhler
- Trevor Jung
- Quashana Foster
- 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!

A Letter from a Sustaining Member

Upon moving to Racine in 2006 and joining the Olympia Brown Church, I kept hearing about a "Racine Interfaith Coalition and the work they were doing. My experience throughout my life has been that churches compete and try to outdo each other. What a wonder to find churches working together on social problems.

I continue to be amazed at the work of RIC and their task forces. Good works, wonderful people and strong leadership!

I willingly became a sustaining member, continue to do so and encourage all others to join with us!

-Joe Cushing

[Donate](#)

