

2023-
2024

JOSHUA

Justice Organization
Sharing Hope &
United for Action



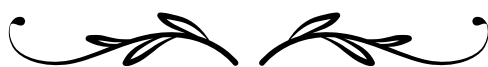
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Welcome to JOSHUA! In this book, you will find information about our organization, our purpose, Board of Directors, staff, task forces, and recent faith in action events.

JOSHUA is working to expand our connections across Green Bay to make a bigger impact on the community and address social justice issues. We are happy to report our year's worth of accomplishments and share them with you. JOSHUA is growing and we are ecstatic you will be an integral part of our success moving forward.

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The JOSHUA Board of Directors is so pleased to welcome Sara Williams as our new community organizer. She brings enthusiasm, experience, creativity and energy to our organization.

Sara is not new to JOSHUA; her involvement began in 2013. She quietly came to task force meetings, learning the ins and outs of how JOSHUA worked. As she quickly shed her quietness, she began co-chairing the Mental Health Task Force and then began our Housing Task Force. Over the years, her involvement has remained steadfast, and her passion for social justice has grown. Sara fiercely advocates for our vulnerable brothers and sisters, providing care and compassion for the homeless population in our community and those that have experienced many types of abuse.

She comes to JOSHUA with a vast knowledge of professional experiences, from front line worker to director and management positions. As a case manager at St. John’s Homeless Shelter, a domestic violence & sexual assault advocate for Wise Women Gathering Place, the Director of Programming for Safe Shelter and continues to work currently as a case manager for The Salvation Army. Sara has an innate ability to bring people of all walks of life together, gives a voice to those who have yet to find their own and empowers those she meets to stand up for what they believe in and not back down. Challenges are something she has felt personally, which has given her the empathy and patient heart to see others through God’s eyes. She walks humbly with the bible verse Jesus whispered to her many years ago, “For I was not given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

JOSHUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee



**Steve Warner,
Co-President
At Large**



**Sheila De Luca,
Co-President
Religious Leaders Caucus**



**Faith Hagedorn,
Secretary
West Side Moravian Church**

Board Members



**Nancy Slattery,
RUTH President
Responding with Understanding,
Truth and Hope (RUTH)**



**Steve Hartman,
Union Congregational
United Church of Christ**



**Laurie Ropson,
Green Bay Area Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**



**Wendy Gilley,
Ascension Lutheran Church**

JOSHUA Staff



Sara Williams
Community Organizer



Caitlin Haynes
Communications Coordinator



The Religious Leaders Caucus

The Religious Leaders Caucus of JOSHUA is comprised of religious leaders and clergy who believe the work of justice is integral to being a person of faith. Our Caucus promotes justice through building relationships and working together to build a beloved community where all are invited, accepted, respected, and welcome.

The Caucus offers service to JOSHUA in clarifying, developing, and acting on issues of justice in our community. When in doubt on an issue, they are the leaders who guide our questions and concerns. JOSHUA undertakes the issues and implements them using the guidance provided by the RLC through our task forces and partnerships with other organizations. The meetings are a time of discussing concerns about justice issues reflected in their congregations and how they intersect with the work of JOSHUA. *It is a time for reflection, prayer, action, and encouragement* as members of the group work to engage their faith communities around core faith values and the work of justice.

The Caucus is co-led by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels of Union Congregational United Church of Christ and Michael Westenberg, Director of Religious Education and Social Outreach at St. Matthew Catholic Church.

Faith leaders of all traditions are invited to join us, whether the congregations they serve are members of JOSHUA or not. The group gathers every first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:15 PM from the months of September through May. Summers are taken off to enjoy time with family and attend to other obligations.

Join us the first Thursday of the month at noon for a "bring your own lunch meeting." Email joshua4justice@gmail.com to get on the email list and for meeting locations!



Bridget Flad Daniels



Michael Westenberg



Prayer circle at GBCI by the Religious Leaders, Transformational Justice Task Force, and GBPD

MISSION

JOSHUA inspires and equips people to work together on systemic justice issues in Northeast Wisconsin. JOSHUA builds relationships in the public and private sectors to advance issues that align with our core values.

VISION

JOSHUA envisions a fair and equitable future where everyone in Northeast Wisconsin is an active participant in building a strong and healthy community.

VALUES

JOSHUA's core values are essential to our vision. Although we are composed of diverse faith-based organizations, we welcome people of all backgrounds. We believe in the inherent **worth & dignity of every human being**. We believe in **equity, education, advocacy, racial & social justice, and community & relationship building**.



LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

JOSHUA acknowledges the ancestral homeland and traditional territories of Indigenous peoples who have been here since the time beyond memory or record, and we recognize the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation as the original First People of Wisconsin. We recognize the Oneida Nation people who currently call Brown County home.

We acknowledge the initial and continued benefits that colonizers have gained due to the free, enslaved labor of Black people.

We recognize the historic and present violations of and systemic sins against people and our values, and in response, we commit to a long-term agenda that creates structural racial equity.

BRIEF HISTORY

JOSHUA began in 2004 when various faiths united to work towards social justice in the Greater Green Bay Area. JOSHUA experienced the amazing possibilities when interfaith communities joined together to overcome divisions and stood united for action. We are grassroots and non-profit (501c3), focusing our work in the Brown County region of Wisconsin.

Member Congregations

Ascension Lutheran Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Fox Valley Friends
Union Congregational United
Church of Christ
West Side Moravian Church

Partner Congregations

St. Matthew Catholic Church
Resurrection Catholic Church
St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

JOSHUA – Green Bay



WISDOM – Statewide Network



CUSH—Kenosha
ESTHER—Fox Valley
JOB—Beloit
JONAH—Eau Claire
JOSHUA—Green Bay
MICAH—Milwaukee
MOSES—Madison

NAOMI—Wausau
RIC—Racine
RUTH—Manitowoc
SOPHIA—Waukesha
Menikānaehkem—Menominee Tribe
EXPO—Ex-Incarcerated People
Organizing
FREE—Reclaiming Women’s Freedom

GAMALIEL— National Network



FAITH IN ACTION

JOSHUA Actions for This Past Year...

- Canvassing for Get Out the Vote & Treatment Alternatives and Diversions
- Cohosted the Rally to Save the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act)
- Madison Action Day
- Multiples Prayer Circles
- The Solitary Confinement Experience
- Divine Ambiguity Art Exhibit
- Cohosting the Prison Doula Project with FREE
- Community Resource Tabling Initiatives
- Fundraisers such as the Chili Tailgate, Pints for a Purpose, and Electronics Recycling

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Casa ALBA members, COVO, WISDOM Integrated Voter Team, and JOSHUA members prepared to canvass neighborhoods to Get Out the Vote and educate on Treatment Alternatives and Diversions. October 2022.



JOSHUA board, staff, and task force members attended the biennial Madison Action Day event, rallying and speaking to legislators on our issues. April 2023.



Prayer circles in response to violence were planned by the Religious Leaders, Transformational Justice Task Force, and GBPD. The Rally to Save the ICWA held a candle vigil. November 2022.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE TABLE INITIATIVES



JOSHUA members with Peggy West-Schroder from FREE (Reclaiming Women's Freedom) at the Juneteenth vendor table sharing information. June 2023.



JOSHUA shared resources for volunteering and community engagement at the Brown County Volunteer Center EXPO. February and September 2023.

EDUCATION

The Transformational Justice Task Force worked with Talib Akbar on bringing the Solitary Confinement Experience to Green Bay. JOSHUA and community members showed support, and many experienced the replica cell. May 2023.



JOSHUA cohosted the Rally to Save the ICWA with Building Unity, Oneida Members, and community members in efforts to educate attendees on the effects of separating Indigenous children from their families. November 2022.



“Divine Ambiguity: Reclaiming the Sacred” art exhibit, created by artist Toril Fisher, was brought to Resurrection in Green Bay to display. An artist meet and greet was planned by JOSHUA, and attendees explored the humanity aspects of the pieces. October 2023.



FREE is partnering with the JOSHUA Transformational Justice Task Force to cohost the Prison Doula Project which explores giving birth in prison, featuring a documentary and panel discussion. December 2023.



For many years now, electronics recycling has become an annual fundraiser to encourage environmental consciousness and bring together volunteers of all ages and abilities. The past couple of years have featured a bake sale as well. September 2023.

In partnership with Zambaldi Beer, JOSHUA held a fundraiser called “Pints for a Purpose” during the summer. June 2023.

FUNDRAISING

JOSHUA hosted a chili tailgate fundraiser last fall during a Packer home game at West Side Moravian Church. November 2022.



JOSHUA TASK FORCES

Transformational Justice Task Force chaired by Jim Cairns

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 6 PM

- Helped to establish treatment courts in Brown County
- Dozens of prayer circles in response to community violence
- Successfully opposed Department of Corrections proposed single vendor for WI prison system along with other justice reform organizations
- Recently hosted the Solitary Confinement Experience
- Working on cohosting the Prison Doula Project with FREE
- Consistent efforts to address mass incarceration and conditions in jail / prison

Environmental Justice Task Force

- Central in the establishment of the City of Green Bay Sustainability Commission
- Oppose oil pipelines in Wisconsin rally
- Community clean ups
- Annual electronics recycling event
- Worked on a project related to the coal piles in downtown Green Bay
- Currently on a hiatus due to the need to cut an issue and gather members

Immigration Task Force led by Nancy Slattery

- A First-Generation Immigrant and Refugee Celebration Picnic took place in the summer of 2022 to celebrate and welcome people who have immigrated to our community.
- Efforts by select JOSHUA members to participate in WISDOM's phone banking in support of drivers cards for immigrants and DACA recipients to become law enforcement officers

Housing Task Force led by Sara Williams

NEW TASK FORCE: beginning in the fall of 2023

- Working with the Greater Green Bay Blueprint to Prevent and End Homelessness
 - Partnering with other organizations on advocacy initiatives for housing
 - Implementing the Housing Policy Institute to train those affected by housing



RUTH

Responding with Understanding Truth and Hope

RUTH is an interfaith justice organization in Manitowoc County. RUTH is an anti-racist organization. We are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of God. Treating all races with dignity and respect must be the basis of all public policies. This effort to support all races is a sign of the spirit of God who leads us all. We welcome the opportunity to join with community organizations in this effort to confront our systemic racism.

Because justice based on the values of our faith is our goal, RUTH members know that much more is yet to be accomplished. Members continue their commitments to build the relationships, forming a community of neighbors to advocate together for structural change in the critical justice issues that face all of Wisconsin. We collaborate within many organizations both local and statewide to build awareness of the needs of our diverse populations and strengthen the reforms our values support.

Contact us at ruth4justice@gmail.com, and visit the RUTH-Manitowoc Facebook page.

Actions in 2023

- Met with the three State Senators and three Assembly Persons from Manitowoc County on April 27, 2023 for WISDOM Madison Action Day
- Part of WISDOM's June 2023 phone bank to fellow WISDOM members to get specific Senator's support for restoring drivers licenses for all in WI and again around SB 78 regarding police eligibility for DACA individuals
- The RUTH Transformational Justice Task Force gathered our members with those of our co-host LWV of Manitowoc County on September 7th to learn what Attorney Casey Hoff and EXPO members, Delilah McKinney and Dennis Franklin, believe needs changing here in WI. A second meeting on October 26th broke into issue groups within the two separate entities.
- Supported these efforts within our members faith communities and community allies:
 - The June/July Exhibit Art Against The Odds: Wisconsin Prison Art at the Rahr West Museum in Manitowoc
 - The one woman play about Dorothy Day, Haunted By God presented by the Living Justice Committee of St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community of Newton
 - Continued our long involvement with the formation of a Mental Health diversion court.



Nancy Slattery,
RUTH President
JOSHUA Board Member



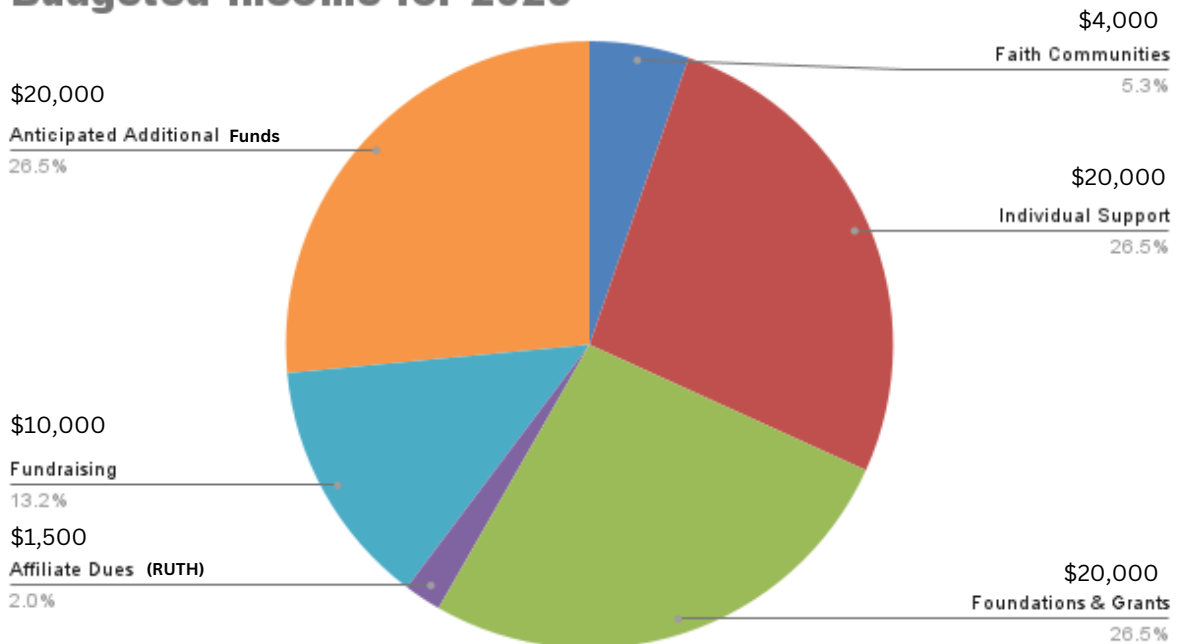
RU TH Membership

- First Lutheran Church of Manitowoc
- Lakeshore Church of Manitowoc
- Fox Valley Friends – Quakers meeting in Green Bay
- Lakeshore Pax Christi of Manitowoc County

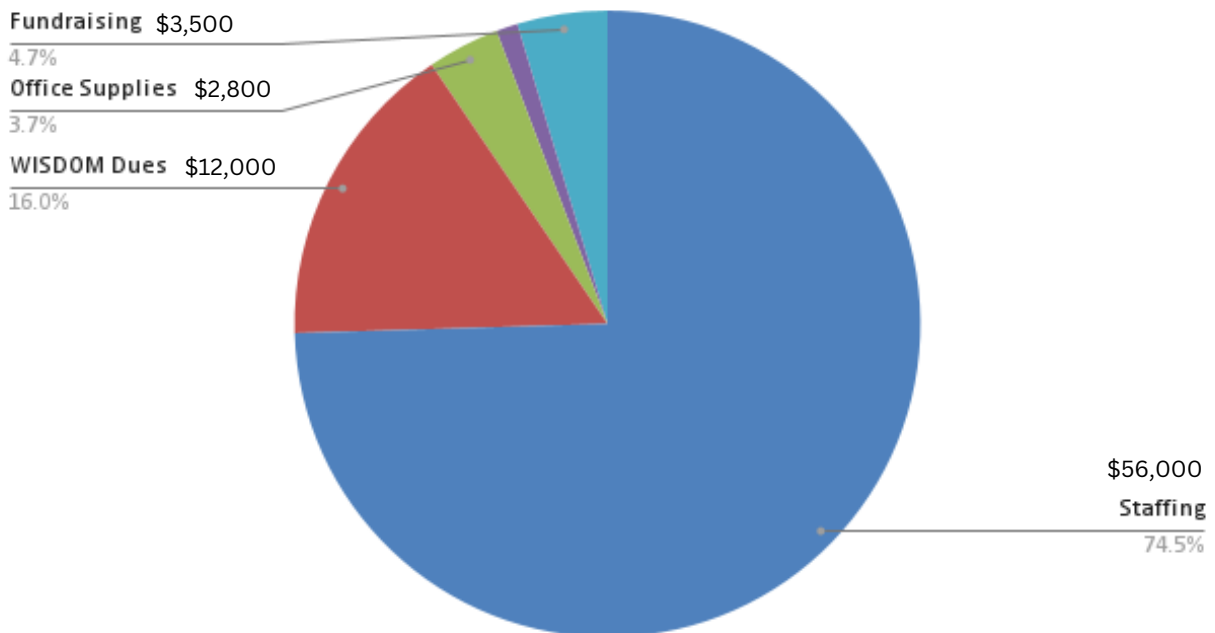
JOSHUA Financial Report 2023

The critical work we do in our local Brown County Community depends heavily on the generosity and shared vision of our supporters. As a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, our budget is made possible by member and partner congregations, fundraising, foundation grants, and donations from individuals just like you. Please consider helping JOSHUA in our continued efforts to keep "doin' justice" with a fully tax-deductible gift.

Budgeted Income for 2023



Budgeted Expenses for 2023



CONTACT US



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THANK
YOU

TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS



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Staci Marrese-Wheeler
Marian Boyle Rohloff
Michael Westenberg
Carol De Groot
Margaret Guzek
Jim Hicks
Nancy Mathias
Carol Sevcik
Steve and Lora Warner
Rachel Westenberg
Nancy Slattery
Katina Daanen-Vainisi
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Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Resurrection Catholic Parish



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