



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 in the 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

The last several months have been ones in which we collaborated a great deal with other groups both near and statewide to accomplish goals that fit with our values. We worked with all the WISDOM affiliates to move our priorities around the environment, health, education, immigration, and changes in incarceration forward in the state budget. We testified at the Joint Finance Committee hearings and since then have continued and will continue to push for these priorities to be addressed either in the budget or with legislation. We are doing this at Juneteenth, First Fridays, and other civic events. We are also writing letters to the editor to inform the public about these and other RIC issues. If you would like to join our letter-writing group, contact Tammy Hayward. We helped to move covid-19 vaccinations along by pulling together a powerful group of African American and Latinx leaders to work with the County and the City to remove barriers to vaccinations for those in the inner city or with transportation problems. This group under the leadership of Elizabeth Markham continues to work to reverse the hesitancy of some to get vaccinated.

Along with the African American Round Table and the NAACP, we supported the opening of Julian Thomas and Knapp for Summer School with free transportation and lunch. On June 7, we will connect with the “Poor Peoples’ Campaign”, a group first formed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to support the goal of fair wages as it addresses poverty in America from the bottom up. In the fall we are one of the sponsors of the next Racine Reads which will bring Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, to the attention of Racinians with discussion groups and other events planned. This is a continuation of the efforts of the “Opening Our Hearts and Minds to End Racism” group we have partnered with over the last two years. We have continued to work closely with Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism during the last months as the Department of Public Instruction agreed with them regarding the issues of discrimination they pointed out in the Burlington School District and in celebrating their second annual Juneteenth Day in Burlington’s Echo Lake Park. We are also working with a group of individuals from both East and West of I 94 to investigate the possibilities of bringing “Restorative Justice” to Racine County. We are also honored that two members of RIC, Pastor Prentiss Robbins was named Man of the Year and Pastor Ernest Ni’A was named Man of Distinction in The Racine Mirror.

Watch for coming events such as our next Food Truck Festival on August 15th and our Banquet on December 5th.

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



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. They have developed a book club known as RIC Reads. Their first read is *Bleeding Out* by Thomas Abt which discusses violent crime in America and methods to curtail it in our cities. For more information about joining the bookclub email ricraciner1993@gmail.com

In early 2021, they set new goals. They focused on contacting state legislators about the need for increased funding for schools in the state budget. In June, members from the Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE) gave a presentation. A subgroup of ETE was created to brainstorm ways to replicate the work of COLE in Racine. ETE looks to fund programs that support removal of lead from the air, water and Racine homes. To join the ETE contact Nikki Fisher, efisher@wi.rr.com.



IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Task Force has applied for RIC to receive recognition from DOJ to provide support services to immigrants in filing their paperwork and will hear back in the summertime if they are approved. In addition, they have continued to work on the driver's licenses for the undocumented campaign and have divided our task force into subgroups working on research, endorsements, and legislation.



FROM OUR TASK FORCE

advocating and supporting the beloved community

EX-INCARCERATED PERSONS ORGANIZING (EXPO)



Carl Fields with Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) continues 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. Through these conversations, he has 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, the task force hopes to achieve equitable justice. If you would like to get involved, email ricraciner1993@gmail.com and join us!

YOUTH

This summer, RIC will be hosting a college readiness workshop series led by graduate student Lena Ali. She will cover topics such as career assessments, college affordability, college planning and transition from high school to college. These sessions will be offered in a hybrid model both in-person and virtual and some sessions aim to include parent involvement and insight into the process as well to ensure youth are succeeding. For complete information and to sign up visit <http://bit.ly/RICCollegeWorkshop>



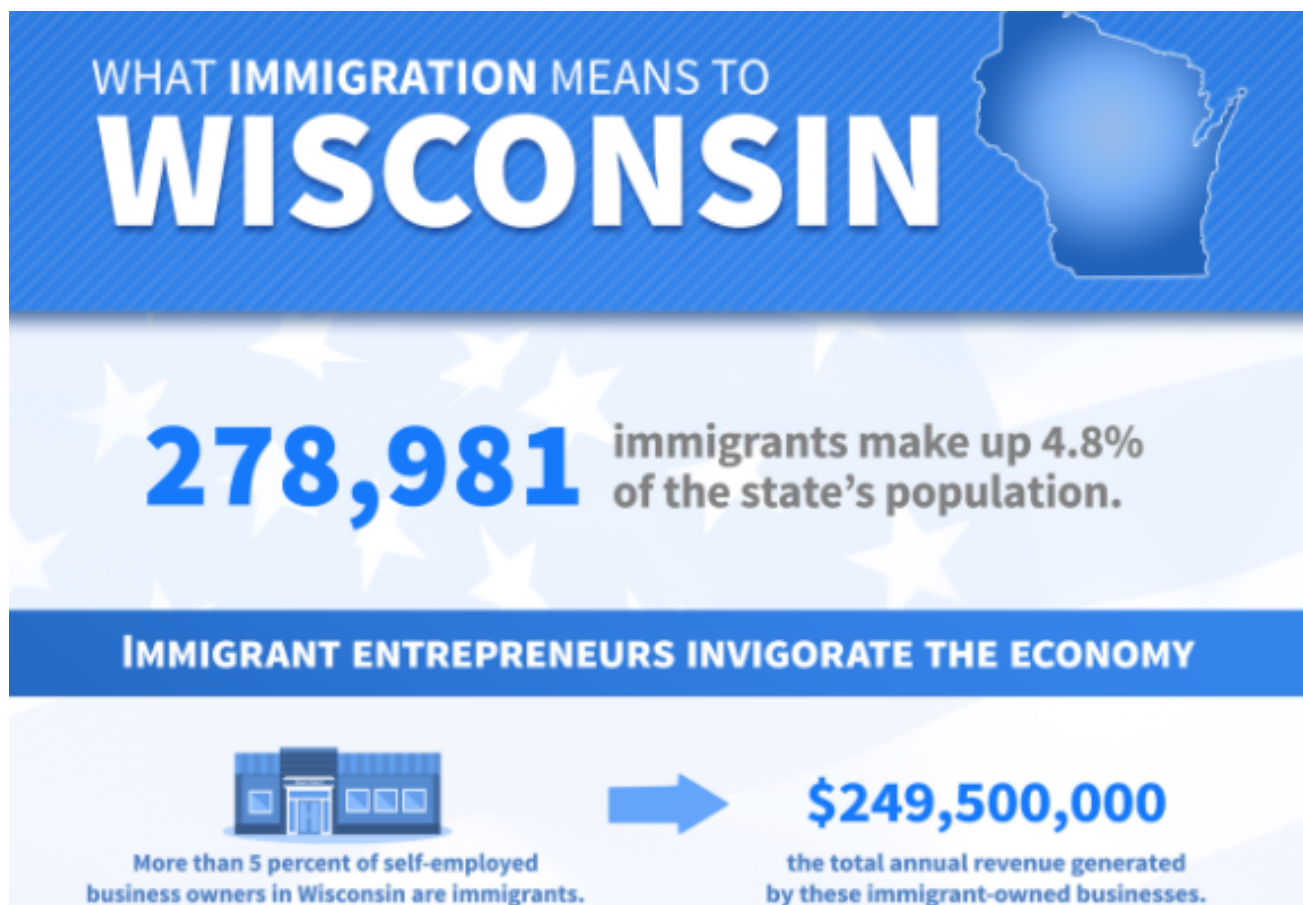
THE BURLINGTON COALITION FOR DISMANTLING RACISM (BCDR)



BCDR will host its second annual Juneteenth Rally at Echo Lake Park in Burlington on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 2:00-8:00 pm. In addition, BCDR President and Founder Darnisha Garbade filed a discrimination case against Burlington Area School District (BASD) with DPI concluding that "racial harassment at BASD was severe, pervasive and persistent." BASD must submit a corrective action plan. Upon submitting the plan, DPI required that they include BCDR on their Community Equity Team.

IMMIGRANT LEGAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Coming soon! Stay tuned for more information!



Source: American Immigration Council

The RIC Immigration Task Force is excited to provide help for immigrants in completing some of the necessary paperwork required by the Federal Government. Through a grant from Amparro, an ELCA member, RIC was able to send 10 people to training provided by CLINIC Legal at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The training is part of a process to have RIC recognized by the Department of Justice as an organization that can provide services. Each of the 10 trained people will become accredited by DOJ to provide services. We must submit paperwork and applications to the DOJ who will evaluate and then make a decision. We are ready to submit the application this summer and hope to hear sometime in the Fall if we qualify.

Upon receiving our recognition RIC plans to offer 1 or 2 sessions per week where people can come to our office for help with documents. They will call for appointments and have an interview prior to coming in. There will be a lawyer on-site for each session and we can call upon CLINIC Legal for any support or questions. We are excited to be able to offer this valuable service to immigrants in our community. Stay in touch with us for more information soon!

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.

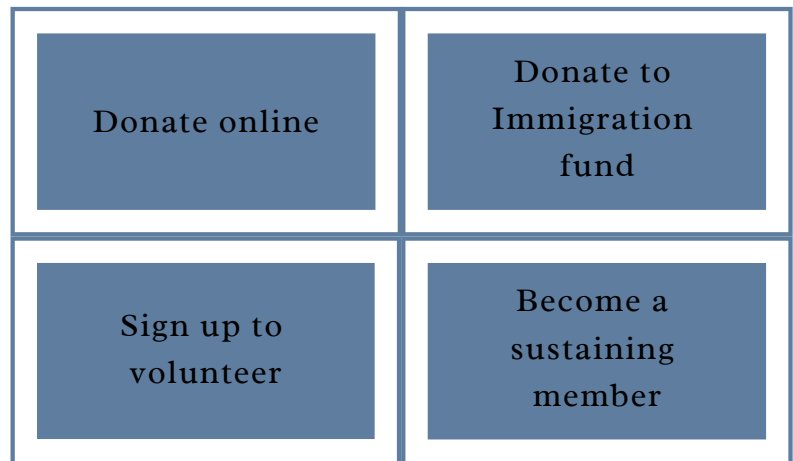
For immigration fund donations please write "immigration" in notes



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.
- Youth Task Force - varies
- Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism
 - Every other Sunday 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ROC/EXPO Task Force - varies
- Juneteenth celebration
 - June 19, 2021 (Racine, Kenosha, Burlington) time and date varies - visit our Facebook for more information
- Food Truck Festival
 - August 15, more info soon

Email Virginia at ricraciner1993@gmail.com for questions or more information.



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

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- Susan Spicer
- Tamerin Hayward
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- 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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The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.

– W.E.B. Du Bois