



# 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

The summer seems to have flown by with some very positive things and some difficult ones as well. We had a fine Food Truck Festival at St. Rita's Catholic Church on August 15th with the help of many people. Greg Petro secured the location, and he was a big help with the whole set up of the event. Al Johnson served as Master of Ceremonies and did a great job. Wally Herman ran a successful 50/50 raffle which he will repeat at our Banquet on December 5th at Preservation Hall. Our new Police Chief Maurice Robinson and Dasheika Kidd of FEC gave interesting and timely presentations. Great food by Frankies and MM&E Barbeque and blue grass music by Flat Creek Hwy completed a great afternoon.

Many of us studied the book, *Bleeding Out* and are hoping to affect some form of "Violence Interruption" in Racine. More will be shared about this later, but our timing seems very relevant as we are about to hold our fourth vigil to mourn a violent death in the Racine community in a little over three weeks. Each of these deaths was tragic, unnecessary and took people from their loved ones at a young age. We are told our vigils help the bereaved and the community, but we would rather see an end to this gun violence.

We have been very impressed by the Joshua Glover Justice Fund created to provide bail in limited amounts for those who could continue to work and support themselves and their families if they had the ability to pay their bail while they await adjudication. We plan to present more about the history of Joshua Glover and this important work at our Public meeting on September 30 via Zoom.

On September 27, the first of several events connected with Racine Reads *Just Mercy*, will take place at the library. We are working with the Dominicans, the library, UW Parkside, and Racine Vocational Ministry on this series.

A group of 10 RIC board members have started writing letters to the editor to express our views on issues such as the state budget and more recently the potential for legislation that would prohibit the teaching of history in a truthful and complete manner.

These are some of the things that kept us busy during this quarter. We appreciate the help of Virginia Aranda and Amanda Ali who are our right and left hands!

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 Education Task Force has been busy with a number of activities but the primary focus for the next few months will be on working to reduce the high levels of lead in children in Racine. No level of lead in the blood is acceptable but higher levels can cause physical, behavioral and learning problems that will follow the child for the rest of his or her life. The first priorities will be educating families on the need to have their children's lead levels tested and informing homeowners and renters about resources available from the city and county to help with the removal of lead pipes and mitigating issues with lead paint.

## 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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*advocating and supporting the beloved community*



## 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. We feel that will happen in January of 2022. 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 are in the investigating stage of this project, and we will share more information later.

## 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 [ricraciner993@gmail.com](mailto:ricraciner993@gmail.com) and join us!



# FROM OUR TASK FORCE

*advocating and supporting the beloved community*



## THE BURLINGTON COALITION FOR DISMANTLING RACISM (BCDR)

The Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism (BCDR) hosted a successful Juneteenth celebration at Burlington's Echo Lake Park on Saturday, June 19 for the second year in a row. The event featured delicious food from Big Daddy's BBQ & Soul Food, a variety of speakers and performers as well as a life-size solitary confinement display. This event was another

great opportunity to educate the community about the significance of Juneteenth while coming together to enjoy a day together. Representation matters and students of color should be able to see themselves in the books on the shelf - and white students should have the opportunity to learn their stories! Now that school is back in session, BCDR has also launched its second annual Back to School fundraiser to donate boxes of Crayola's "World of Colors" crayons as well as books featuring characters of color for Burlington classrooms. This year, we set the goal to raise enough to make donations to every 4K-8th grade classroom in Burlington - and, with the incredible support of our Coalition members and the community, we have just about reached our fundraising goal!

## YOUTH

This 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!



# RACINE READS *JUST MERCY*

Visit [ricracine.org/events](https://ricracine.org/events) for full schedule and RSVP links



Source: Just Mercy website

This series is presented by Opening Our Hearts and Minds to End Racism, facilitated by Dominican Center for Justice Resources, which includes Hospitality Center, Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice, Racine Dominican Sisters and Associates, Racine Interfaith Coalition, Racine Public Library, Racine Vocational Ministry, Siena Retreat Center and University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

A series of events about the book *Just Mercy* written by Bryan Stevenson based on his life work battling for justice for people who live in poverty or are disfavored, accused, incarcerated or condemned.

All of the events will be hosted virtually via Zoom with copies of the book available for free at the Racine Public Library and Mahogany Gallery. Please view full details of the schedule on the RIC website or social media pages.

RSVP for events here: <https://ricracine.org/events>

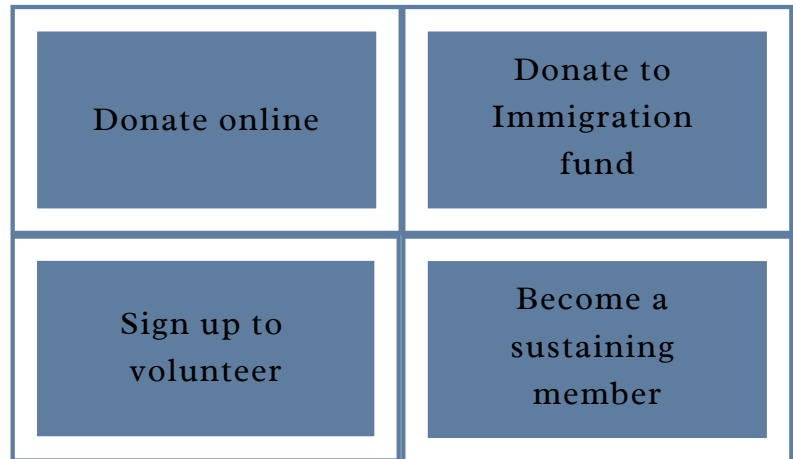
# Support Us

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

- Public Meeting
  - September 30 - 6:30pm - registration online at RIC Website
- 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
- Criminal Justice Campaign Planning -October 12th 5:00 p.m. contact [peggy@expowisconsin.org](mailto:peggy@expowisconsin.org)



## Get in Touch



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Check out our new website!  
[www.ricracine.org](http://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
- 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 Eggert
- Nancy Holmlund
- Nick Akgulian
- Nikki Fisher
- 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
- 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](#)

