

JUNE 4, 2023

A VOICE FOR JUSTICE



GSOP
ANNUAL
REPORT

2023

2002



2023



WHO WE ARE

The Granite State Organizing Project is a nonpartisan, multi-racial, and multi-faith community organization, working to place human dignity at the center of public life in New Hampshire. By uniting faith communities, tenant associations, labor unions, and other organizations and individuals, GSOP strengthens the ability of Granite Staters to address local, regional, and national issues (including racial and economic inequities in education, housing, immigration, and healthcare). GSOP is a vehicle for congregations, people of faith, and all who desire positive change to act collectively and powerfully towards racial and economic equity and justice in NH.

WHAT WE DO

Our shared values and diverse faiths drive us to organize for a better world for our children and our children's children. Leaders with GSOP organize to create a society where everyone, whether Black, Brown, or White, can thrive without exception.

WHY WE DO IT:

- **COOPERATION**
- **IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY**
- **INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION**
- **PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **OPPORTUNITY**
- **EQUITY**

Our Board

EXECUTIVE

MARSHA FEDER

President

EVA CASTILLO

First Vice President

REV JASON WELLS

Second Vice President

SHIDEKO TERAJ

Treasurer

ANNE GROSSI

Secretary

REPRESENTATIVES

CECLIA ALLEYNE

Manchester Chapter Representative

MARILYN CAVANAUGH

Manchester Chapter Representative

MCKENZIE GARDINER

Manchester Chapter Y.O.U. Representative

TONIA KNISLEY

Nashua Chapter Representative

SHARON PARKER

Upper Valley Representative

KENNETH BARNES

Individual Member at Large

TRISTAN HUSBY

GSIAF Representative

Our Staff

SARAH JANE KNOY

Executive Director

VIOLA KATUSIIME

Deputy Director

ILIANA BARRETO

Office Manager & Latino Community Coordinator

SUDI LETT

Youth Education Program Coordinator

BRECKIE HAYES-SNOW

Operations Manager

ANGELA MERCADO

Nashua Community Coordinator

MARTIN TOE

African & Clergy Organizer

BLAKE TYLER

Voting Rights Organizer

GEORGE HOYT

Souhegan Valley Organizer

NATE DUVAL

Assistant Youth Organizer

HABIBA HASSAN

Assistant Youth Organizer

EMILY MERCADO

Assistant Youth Organizer

JESSICA MARGESON

Tenant Organizer

The people who
keep us going

**The people behind
our power**

Our Member Groups

**Christ Church Exeter
Concordia Lutheran Church of Concord
Hanover Friends Meeting
Lebanon United Methodist Church
Main Street Methodist Church
Nashua Area Interfaith Council
The Sisters of Mercy
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Anne-St. Augustin Parish
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
State Employees Assoc. of NH**

**Temple Beth Abraham - Tzedek Committee
The First Church of Nashua
Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua
Upper Valley Jewish Community
Adult Learning Center of Nashua
American Friends Service Committee
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish
Church of Christ at Dartmouth College
Church of Our Savior
Elmwood Gardens Community
Londonderry United Methodist Church
Meriden Congregational
NH Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
New Hampshire Peace Action
North Atlantic State Carpenters
St. Anselm College
St. Lawrence Catholic Parish
Sisters of Holy Cross
Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
United Food and Commercial Workers, local 1445
Catholics Organized for GSOP Support
Granite Staters Organized for GSOP Support**



Manchester Chapter

Meetings occur every second
Tuesday at 6:00pm

Over the past year, the Manchester Chapter has selected affordable housing as a top issue to address.

- **Inclusionary Zoning Research:** To build a foundation for that work, the Chapter has engaged in numerous leader-led research actions on affordable housing with a focus on inclusionary zoning ordinance. This included meetings with Alderman Pat Long, Alderman June Trisciani, Alderman Jim Burkush, meeting with Robert Tourigny, Director of NeighborWorks and Jeff Belanger, Director of Planning and Community Development.
- **Leadership Training:** The Manchester Chapter leaders have engaged in Housing Justice Narrative training to learn about framing and how to build a multiracial coalition to win sustainable change on housing.
- **Legislation:** The Manchester Chapter was instrumental in the the defeat of HB 117, a bill that would have ended good cause evictions.
- **Tenant Organizing:** The Manchester Chapter supported Varney Street residents in their organizing efforts to form a legally recognized Tenants Union. This support included help with community meetings, information on HUD tenant rights and participation, nomination of officers, elections, setting up by-laws, and operations for the council.
- **Tenant Association Clinics:** The Granite State Tenant Association began meeting in person in October of 2022 and is approaching its 1 year anniversary with over 50 members. The Clinic will be having its 2 year anniversary September 27, 2023 this year. This Clinic has reached hundreds of tenants who were grateful for the services, support and encouragement offered. Because of the clinic 2 tenants were able to find their voice and learn how to file an appeal to the NH Supreme Court and win.

Inclusionary Zoning Meeting



Chapter Member Testifying



Chapter Reports:

*Meetings occur every third
Monday at 6:30pm*

Nashua Chapter

Asphalt Plant:

The Nashua Chapter has organized for the past several months in opposition to the proposed Asphalt Plant in Nashua by knocking on doors and our monthly meetings at Arlington Community Center. This culminated in several of our Latino community leaders testifying at Planning Board meetings about the proposed plant and taking a more active role within the Nashua chapter.

Earth Day Cleanup

We also organized an Earth Day cleanup event, and we are currently working towards a petition project to get lights installed at Greeley Park in Nashua.

Voter Education

During the election season, we held several voter education events with new American citizens and infrequent voters around documents needed to vote and describing positions on the ballot/what they meant to the average voter.

Leadership Development:

The Chapter continues to affirm ongoing leadership development in the Latino community in Nashua and Manchester with a recent graduation from the Crendo Lideres en La Comunidad.



Plant Protests



Earth Day Cleanup



Voter Education

Upper Valley Chapter

Meetings occur every third

Tuesday at 1:00pm

Climate Explorers:

The Upper Valley Chapter members organized activities in their local community to participate in Plastics Free July. We continue to explore ways to address climate change.

Affordable Housing:

- The Upper Valley Chapter has invested in research actions about affordable housing, organizing meetings with a Select Board Member, affordable housing experts in the region, and people with lived experiences.
- We supported St. Paul and Twin Pines project to create 18 one-bedroom affordable units for chronically homeless individuals. Members of the Upper Valley attended planning board meetings, lobbied the planning commission, and mobilized local faith communities and friends to speak up in support.
- We mobilized support for a housing article in Hanover which was passed by voters at Town Meeting Day. The article commits 5 acres of land to the construction of new affordable housing. This included speaking at Town Meeting Day, making calls to Hanover residents, writing letters to the editor, and publishing bulletins in church newsletters encouraging people to vote for the article

Organizational:

We are excited to announce the hiring of our new Upper Valley Organizer, Allen Lipson, a rabbinical student who will be joining us in June.

VALLEY NEWS

Menu



Opinion > Letters-to-the-editor

Valley News Forum for May 3, 2023: Support housing article at Hanover Town Meeting

Published: 5/3/2023 6:21:40 AM
Modified: 5/3/2023 6:41:34 PM

Support housing article at Hanover Town Meeting

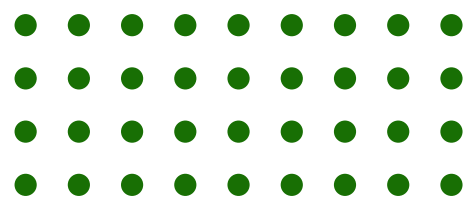
On Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the Hanover High School gym, registered Hanover voters have an opportunity to participate in democracy in action. I urge Hanover voters to attend and to vote yes on Article 15 which addresses the need for local workforce housing.

In 2020 the town accepted 256 acres on the north side of Greensboro Road known as the Leavitt property. This year the town is requesting approval to pass 5 acres of this property to Twin Pines Housing Trust or a similar nonprofit to build workforce housing.

Recent Valley News editions have highlighted the lack of affordable housing in New Hampshire. In the Upper Valley we are not immune from this shortage. Talk with any employer having trouble filling positions; you will hear that because people can't find housing either in the Upper Valley or within reasonable driving distance from their employment, they turn down jobs. We who depend on medical care from Dartmouth Health have reason to be concerned if the lack of housing affects Hitchcock's ability to hire qualified personnel.

For residents concerned about the impact of potential housing on the 5 acres, any proposal must go through planning, zoning, and selectboard hearings. For more information, see the Hanover Town Report on the Town of Hanover website.

Hanover Town Meeting Article



Souhegan Valley Chapter

The Upcoming Year:

- **Community Engagement:** We aim to increase community participation, recognizing that change is most impactful when driven by those it affects. Our strategy includes mobilizing local congregations, as their influence can significantly shape community perspectives and foster unity.
- **Engage Systemic Issues:** Our goal is to tackle the long-standing systemic problems in the Souhegan Valley, including affordable housing and advocating for everyone's right to secure and reasonably priced accommodation. Additionally, we aim to address deeply ingrained social justice concerns, such as environmental issues, discrimination and systemic racism.
- **Master Plan:** Our involvement in the Envision Milford Master Planning Process allows us to align our initiatives with larger community development objectives, ensuring our efforts synergize with broader goals for Milford's and the wider region's growth.
- **Meetings:** We hold monthly meetings to strategize, align our initiatives, and engage in meaningful discussions to guide our actions. Building community and growing relationships is crucial to our efforts in the Souhegan Valley.

The Souhegan Valley Chapter of the Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) is a revitalized initiative to foster equality, inclusivity, and active community participation in the Souhegan Valley. This work builds on the legacy of the old Souhegan Valley Chapter from 2008, which resulted in the introduction of the Blue Bus, an appointment-based transportation service for medical visits. It is a testament to the transformative changes achieved when a community comes together with a common purpose.

AS WE REBUILD THE SOUHEGAN VALLEY GSOP CHAPTER, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO BRINGING INCREMENTAL YET SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY. LEVERAGING THE SUCCESSES OF THE PAST AND WITH A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE, WE AIM TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY. WE INVITE AND ENCOURAGE MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN US SO THAT WE CAN MAKE A MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

Y.O.U. Young Organizers United

Meetings occur every Tues/Thurs 3-5 pm during the school year

Manchester Chapter:

- **Trips:** Y.O.U. visited the NH Black Heritage Trail, The Museum of African American History in Boston, and the United Nations in NY.
- **Harvard Visit:** Our youth spoke about firsthand experiences in youth organizing at Harvard in Dr. Karen Mapps graduate class.
- **School Board Influence:** Our students attended and spoke at school board meetings calling for an AP African American studies class to be added to the Manchester School Board Curriculum.
- **Civic Engagement:** Y.O.U. Leader McKenzie took part in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Panel discussion in Manchester. The Manchester Chapter also attends and speaks at Manchester School Board meetings
- **The Future:** Y.O.U. students are currently planning for future events and opportunities to do community organizing and build power including this summer's We Are One Festival and this fall's Candidate Forum.



Y.O.U. with Dr. Mapp



MLK Panelist McKenzie

Nashua Chapter:

Meetings occur every Monday 3-5 pm during the school year

Nashua Y.O.U. Meeting



YOU launched a Nashua program and has had seven successful meetings with students from Nashua North. It is a diverse group and we're hoping as the word spreads around that more youth will come, through our outreach efforts with school coordinators. The meetings so far have focused on addressing the weaknesses in our community and schools and providing civics education, including the role and responsibilities of an alderman, board of education, and where city hall is located. Six out of the seven students who are English Language Learners mentioned about the lack of respect, engagement, and the quality of relationships they have with the staff and other students at the school.

We came to know that many of them wanted to participate in the various programs of Nashua Technology Center and were told no because they don't know the language yet (English). With Y.O.U being established in Nashua we will ensure that their voices are heard and that we can make a change not only for them but for the many ELL high school students in Nashua.

Immigrant Solidarity Network ●

The Immigrant Solidarity Network (ISN) has resumed the monthly vigil at the Federal building in Nashua, raising awareness about the detainment and potential deportation of our neighbors. This group continues to bring testimony to Concord in response to proposed immigration legislation deemed harmful to our communities.

*Vigils occur on the first Tuesday of
the month at 9:00am*

Clergy Protesting Outside ICE Headquarters



*Meetings occur the last Tuesday of
the month at 1:30pm,*

● GSOP Clergy Caucus

The GSOP Clergy Caucus has made a conscious effort to promote diversity within its caucus and foster genuine connections with one another through individual meetings. One of the group's objectives this year was to conduct 50 of these meetings before June, but the clergy have exceeded this target. Additionally, the GSOP Clergies have been dedicated to expanding their membership, reinvigorating current memberships, and welcoming fresh faces into the fold. They have also provided testimony on 18 bills and authored 92 pieces of testimony, advocating for legislation concerning a range of issues, such as the minimum wage, housing, and immigration. As we progress, the Clergy Caucus of GSOP will remain steadfast in their commitment to opposing the oppressive, racially motivated regulations that jeopardize the warm reception of immigrants in our locality. We will actively promote the adoption of more equitable housing regulations and stand up to the blare of racism and white supremacy.

Latino Community & Centro Latino

Centro Latino in conjunction with community partners led three vaccination clinics at which over 20 community members were vaccinated. We were able to survey 512 community members about their concerns; by having deep conversations with people we developed our first Latino Community Health Fair. We partnered with different community providers to provide resources, information, and COVID-19 vaccinations. We have also been doing our Creando Lideres para la Comunidad training which provides leadership training to community members. We have done two trainings from which 42 people have graduated and actively participate in actions at the state House.



**Centro Latino Community
Health Fair**

Emerging Leader Konnections

Created this year by Martin Toe, our clergy organizer

- Emerging Leaders Konnections' mission is to equip individuals to become leaders through networking and building relationships. By connecting leaders with each other and with resources, we can help them create positive change in their communities.
- ELK has been holding listening sessions in our African communities and with people most impacted for this purpose. Young community leaders (or ELKs) conducted these listening sessions in order to collect opinions and insights that could benefit the community members' quality of lives. Because the meetings provide a secure environment where community members can express their experiences, worries, and opinions, we can learn about the issues that have the biggest impact.
- The talks include topics connected to discrimination, racism, and cultural identity as well as access to healthcare, education, housing, employment, and social services. The information acquired during these meetings can also be used to advocate for change on a local, national, and international level and to increase awareness of the problems facing our communities. As well as locally advocating, ELK members have taken the stories of their community to D.C. to help advocate for immigration reform.



Trip to DC



**African Community
Diaspora Dialogue**

Budget - FY 2023-2024

GSOP Summary FY2024 Budget

REVENUE				EXPENSES			
Foundation Grants				Personnel			
Endowment for Health		30000		Salaries and wages		708620	
CDC III		120000		Payroll taxes		66484	
Nellie Mae Found for Ed		100000		Employee Benefits		43956	
New Ventures Fund		20000		Contract Services		119700	
Movement Voter Project		30000		Program Expenses		101100	
RDI for GND		20000		Occupancy		38700	
AV -Voting Rights		75,000		Fees & Charges		10450	
NH Charitable		20000		TOTAL EXPENSES		1089010	
UNH		10000					
YHOT		25000		Temporarily restricted Funds carried over from prev			
EFH- Scott\$		25000					
FCYO		30000		Budget Status:			
Jane's Trust Foundation		50000					
Partner Grants							
Regrant - FIA		100000					
Other							
Faith Orgs		25000					
Grassroots Fundraising							
Micah Fundraiser		6000					
Ad Book Income		6000					
Other Fundraisers		10000					
Major Donors		10000					
Fee for Service							
Fiscal Agent & Misc.		2000					
GSIAF		150000					
Membership							
Instlutional		20000					
Individual		6000					
TOTAL REVENUE		890000					

Celebrating 21 Years of Justice



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