

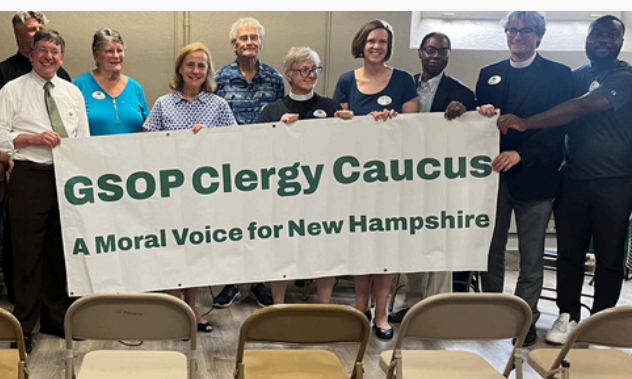
# GRANITE STATE ORGANIZING PROJECT

## SUMMER NEWS



GSOP's **annual meeting** was held in June. More than 50 members from across the state came together at St Paul's Church in Concord for reflection and planning. Successes were celebrated, struggles lamented, and plans for the future were spoken into existence. Leaders at the meeting were asked to think of a problem worthy of attention within the following issue areas; Economic Equity, Education, Racial Equity, Housing, Immigration, and Environmental Justice. Many ideas were brought to the table, ranging from community efforts to federal legislation. Having the whole community together, including the Board of Directors, staff members, volunteers, and chapter members, resulted in a productive meeting.

The fight against the **asphalt plant** in Nashua has been won! The corporation withdrew the lawsuit against the Nashua Planning Board. After extensive community testimony and neighborhood protests, the Planning Board denied a permit, but the company lawsuit threatened to overturn this community victory. Now, Nashua residents no longer have to worry about the proposal which threatened to pollute their neighborhood. Our Executive Director Sarah Jane is quoted in the Boston Globe, "We hope this is just the start of addressing historic patterns of health disparities caused by environmental racism". Environmental injustice is one of the critical issues that face us today, and especially affects marginalized communities. The spirit of this success will lead us to other community victories!



The campaign for **New Hampshire Governor is underway and so is LOVE 2024!** GSOP's faith leaders have organized meetings with each candidate for governor. So far, the team has met with 4 out of the 5 candidates to ask questions about key GOSP issues including: housing, child care, education, and racial equity. Our questions for each candidate reflect non partisan community issues, and ask how each candidate would address them if elected. We met most recently with former Mayor of Manchester, Joyce Craig, and plan a forum with Kelly Ayotte on July 31st. The primary election will be on September 10, 2024, and the general election will be on November 5th, 2024.

The winner will determine important policies such as raising the NH minimum wage and creating a welcoming NH. Your vote counts!

The Manchester Chapter organized an action in solidarity with the Devenscrest Tenant Association, from Ayer, Massachusetts, to demand a stop to renovation evictions. **Brady Sullivan Properties** have put much housing out of reach for working families and seniors across New England states, including New Hampshire, where they own a significant inventory of residential real estate. These evictions force many long-term tenants out of stable housing, and allow for significant price increases.



# GRANITE STATE ORGANIZING PROJECT

## SUMMER NEWS



It's an election year, and we are already hard at work with a team of **canvassers** going door to door in Manchester and Nashua. Our team ask people about their concerns, listen to their thoughts, and encourage voting. In these face-to-face conversations, the top issues we are hearing about include the cost of housing, groceries, and childcare, and the need to raise the NH minimum wage. Our great team of canvassers is encouraging everyone to vote in the September Primary as well as the November general election. Who we elect as Governor, State Senator, Representative, and President will have a big impact on these issues and more! Our Manchester team is also educating and encouraging residents to participate in city-wide meetings to weigh in on the new Manchester zoning ordinance that will shape the landscape for housing in the Queen City for years to come. Please call Viola at the GSOP office if you are interested in joining our canvass team!

The time is coming soon for our **2024 Micah Awards Banquet!** Held annually, the Micah Awards highlight those who serve our community in the spirit of Micah 6:8; "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly". Join us on October 6, 2024, to recognize faith community members for their service. This year's President's Award will go to James McKim, President of the Manchester NAACP and member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Goffstown. All are invited to support GSOP's work by attending the dinner and purchasing an ad in our 2024 Micah Awards Program Book. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by October 6th. The banquet will be held at the Puritan Conference Center at 5pm.



### LATINO LEADERS MOVING AHEAD!

Latino Leaders groups in Nashua and Manchester meet monthly to discuss their issues and plan campaigns. In July, the Nashua group met with a member of the Massachusetts coalition that successfully sought driver's licenses for undocumented folks. The Manchester group has been working with Amoskeag Health to try to find accessible dental care.

### Y.O.U. SUMMER PROGRAM

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.) has started their 2024 summer program! The youth are in the office every Tuesday and Wednesday meeting with elected officials, conducting research and learning the craft of organizing! The summer program is aimed at developing a new generation of leaders starting with Manchester high school students.

### IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY

The New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network has seen significant participation in our interfaith Vigils this summer. We stand with our immigrant neighbors on the first Tuesday of every month at the Federal Building in Manchester to show support as people check in with ICE. Following every vigil, a meeting is held to reflect on recent legislation and public policies affecting immigrants.

### TENANT ORGANIZING

The "Voices of Major Drive", a public housing community, is facing displacement next year. They have come together to negotiate with the Nashua Housing Authority. Recently, 7 tenants graduated from a leadership training program aimed at building power and setting and meeting community goals. They are building strong relationships and a united voice for their community!