

JUNE 9, 2024

A VOICE FOR JUSTICE



**GSOP
ANNUAL
REPORT**

2024

2002



2024



WHO WE ARE

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 health care). 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:

Address root causes of poverty, discrimination and inequity.

Build power for institutional transformation.

2023-2024 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

FAVOUR AGREBESOLA

Manchester Chapter Y.O.U. Representative

TONIA KNISLEY

Nashua Chapter Representative

SHARON PARKER

Upper Valley Representative

KENNETH BARNES

Individual Member at Large

MADELINE AUGUST

Manchester Chapter Representative

DINA BERGER

Manchester Chapter Representative

TRISTAN HUSBY

GSIAF Representative

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Our Staff

SARAH JANE KNOY

Executive Director

VIOLA KATUSIIME

Deputy Director

ILIANA BARRETO

Office Manager & Latino Community Coordinator

SUDI LETT

Youth and Education Program Director

BRECKIE HAYES-SNOW

Operations Manager

TORI MARKIEWICZ

Nashua Community Coordinator

MARTIN TOE

African & Clergy Organizer

BLAKE TYLER

Voting Rights Organizer

GEORGE HOYT

Souhegan Valley Organizer

NATE DUVAL

Assistant Youth Organizer

FAVOUR BEN-OKAFOR

Assistant Youth Organizer

JESSICA MARGESON

Tenant Organizer

The people who
keep us going

The people behind
our power

Our Member Groups

Adult Learning Center of Nashua
American Friends Service Committee
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish
Catholics Organized for GSOP Support
Christ Church Exeter
Church of Christ at Dartmouth College
Church of Our Savior, Milford
Concordia Lutheran Church of Concord
Elmwood Gardens Community
Granite Staters Organized for GSOP Support
Hanover Friends Meeting
Lebanon United Methodist Church
Londonderry United Methodist Church
Main Street Methodist Church

Meelia Center at St. Anselm College
Meriden Congregational Church
Milford United Methodist Church
Nashua Area Interfaith Council
New Hampshire Peace Action
NH Coalition for Occupational
Safety and Health
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Anne-St. Augustin Parish
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Sisters of Holy Cross
State Employees Assoc. of NH
Temple Beth Abraham - Tzedek Committee
The First Church of Nashua
The Sisters of Mercy
Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua
United Food and Commercial Workers,
Local 1445
Upper Valley Jewish Community
Voices of Major Drive



Manchester Chapter

*Meetings occur every second
Tuesday at 6:00pm*

The Manchester Chapter met with for-profit and non-profit developers, and planning and community development staff, to understand the factors interfering with efforts to increase affordable housing. As a result of this research, the Chapter is advocating for reduced parking requirements and increased density at the planning and Board of Mayor Aldermen meetings.

Chapter members also participated in public hearings for the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) with the NH Housing Finance Authority, where we advocated for a 99-year land use restriction on affordable housing and rewarding more points to developers who invest in affordable housing. We have been vocal at city meetings to ensure developers who obtain 79-E tax credits allow section 8 vouchers.

The Chapter has also been a key player in bringing together partners to organize three community lead prevention events to educate the public about the dangers, remediation, and resources to remediate, lead poisoning.

The Chapter organized a multicultural dinner to build relationships and trust. We listened to community concerns, including the cost of housing, healthcare, low-paying jobs, and lack of economic security.

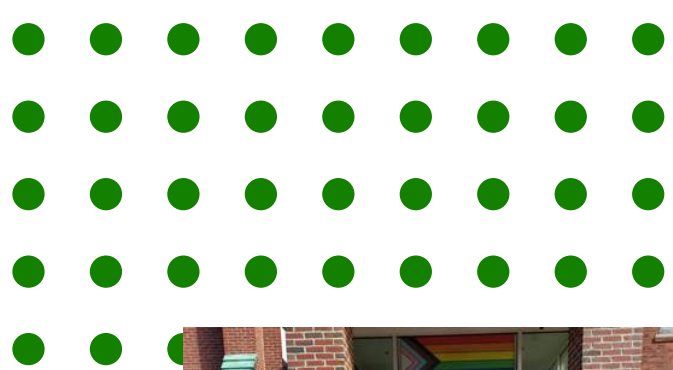
Legislatively, the Chapter has taken action on several housing bills, immigration, and elections.



Chapter Reports

Meetings occur every third Monday at 6:30pm

Nashua Chapter



Plant Protests

Asphalt Plant:

The Nashua Chapter, in collaboration with other local organizations, successfully campaigned against a proposed asphalt plant in the heart of an immigrant community in downtown Nashua.



Nashua Leaders

Leadership Development

Through grassroots organizing, the chapter recruited 11 Latino community members to participate in a 6-week leadership training. The trainees recently graduated and will continue to meet to work on their chosen campaign: changing the state law to allow undocumented people to acquire NH driver's licenses.

Housing Working Group

The Nashua chapter recently formed a subgroup to promote affordable housing in our city. The group attends city planning meetings, meets with local developers, and tracks ongoing housing developments in Nashua.

Tenant Organizing

The Chapter helped organize and continues to support the Voices of Major Drive, a new Resident Council in a public housing community that is undergoing a redevelopment. The Council successfully negotiated with the local housing authority to get community gardens and walking paths to the local sanctuary included in the redevelopment plans.

Meetings occur every third Tuesday at 1:00pm on Zoom

Upper Valley Chapter

The Upper Valley Chapter consists of 5 Faith Communities in the Upper Valley. Our focus has been on the lack of affordable housing in our area. We advocated for workforce and low-income housing in Hanover, Lebanon, and Claremont by inviting community leaders to join us for question and answer sessions via Zoom and by attending Town/Council Meetings. We joined forces with other groups advocating for more affordable housing.

Last winter, Claremont community members and congregations came together to open an emergency winter night drop in shelter. Recently we composed and adopted a "Housing Statement" that can be read at various meetings or sent to officials with power to make a difference.



Upper Valley Leaders



Upper Valley Leaders

Our members support GSOP's other endeavors by indicating our support or opposition to bills in NH Legislature, attending the Immigrant Vigils, and being active on the Board of Directors. We are very proud that our member Shideko Terai is the GSOP Treasurer.

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to the Rev. John Gregory Davis, a tireless activist for GSOP and other justice-seeking organizations, as he retires to Cape Cod.

Chapter Reports

Souhegan Valley Chapter

The Souhegan Valley GSOP Chapter is engaged in efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting social justice and fostering community solidarity. The Chapter meets monthly to discuss ongoing projects, plan new initiatives, and engage with community members. We organized a successful Juneteenth event in 2023 attended by over 100 people and covered by the Boston Globe and New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR). Our event was one of only four Juneteenth celebrations in the state. We are currently planning to hold this event again in 2024.



Souhegan Valley Leaders

We launched a campaign to highlight issues with Milford's sidewalks and crosswalks. This included a petition warrant article, which passed by a landslide, demonstrating strong community support for improved pedestrian safety.

The Chapter is working on hunger and food security issues in the Souhegan Valley. We met with key stakeholders and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to understand the current situation and develop actionable steps.

Our Chapter participated in the Sacred Ally Quilt Project Exhibition in Milford, NH to commemorate Black Lives Matter. This event aimed to honor the movement and raise awareness about racial justice through community-created quilt panels.

Y.O.U.

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

Young Organizers United

Young Organizers United successfully organized a campaign to add an African American Studies course to the Manchester high school curriculum. The students are just finishing the inaugural course this Spring.

Student leaders are organizing a leadership conference to be held in Old Orchard Beach Maine this summer. The event will highlight organizing strategies and youth leadership training.

Our most recent work revolved around a 5-year strategic plan that positions our organizing work with stronger connections to the Manchester Chapter for GSOP.

Lastly, we have begun inroads to new YOU chapters in both Raymond, Goffstown, and Nashua.



YOU Members at work



Immigrant

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

Solidarity Network

The Immigrant Solidarity Network (ISN) has reinstated its monthly vigil at the Federal building in Manchester to raise awareness about the detainment and potential deportation of our neighbors. This dedicated group persists in bringing testimony to Concord in response to proposed immigration legislation that is perceived as harmful to our communities.

GSOP Members at the ISN Vigil



• GSOP Clergy Caucus *Meetings occur the last Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm,*

The GSOP Clergy Caucus is actively engaged in the Love 2024 Campaign. Faith Leaders are planning meetings with all gubernatorial candidates. Our objective is to ensure that the incoming government recognizes the importance of including prophetic voices.

Dedicated to expanding our membership, reinvigorating current members, and welcoming new faces, the GSOP Clergy Caucus is proactive. We have testified on numerous bills, authoring 90 pieces of testimony for legislation on various issues, including the minimum wage, housing, and immigration. Moving forward, the Clergy Caucus of GSOP remains unwavering in our commitment to opposing oppressive, racially motivated regulations that threaten the welcoming environment for immigrants in our community. We will continue to advocate for equitable housing regulations and stand against racism and white supremacy.

Latino Community Leadership

We expanded our Leadership Training into Spanish! Nine Latino Leaders in Manchester completed the leadership training course. Since graduating, the group met with elected officials to discuss issues in their communities, and measures to address access to healthcare and concerns about the environment. They led a Community clean-up event, removing trash from a local park, and a Health Fair to share information in Spanish about different service providers around NH.



Latino Leadership Graduates

Emerging Leader Konnections

Emerging Leader Konnections (ELK) cultivates leadership skills by networking and relationship-building among individuals. We empower emerging leaders by facilitating connections with one another and with valuable resources, enabling them to drive positive change within their communities.

ELK organized a Liberian Independence Day event to celebrate heritage and educate residents of New Hampshire about the Liberian community.

ELK conducts home visits, which serve as listening sessions, within African communities to gather feedback and build relationships.



2024

Notes

Support GSOP

Scan me



GSOP'S North Stars

OUR CORE VALUES AND HOW WE WORK TO ACHIEVE THEM

Develop Grassroots Leadership

Center voices and issues of those most impacted

Make concrete change in people's lives

Our North Stars

Guide us when we don't know what to do

Help us evaluate our behaviors and practices



Help us choose a path and method

Help us stay focused and set priorities



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Celebrating 22 Years of Justice



2002 - 2024

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