

GSOP ANNUAL REPORT



2025


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 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.**

The people who keep us going

2024-2025 Board

EXECUTIVE

MARSHA FEDER

President

REV JASON WELLS

Vice President

SHIDEKO TERAJ

Treasurer

MADELINE AUGUST

Secretary

CELIA ALLEYNE

Manchester Chapter Representative

MARILYN CAVANAUGH

Manchester Chapter Representative

CLAIRE HOLSTON

SV Chapter Representative

TONIA KNISLEY

Nashua Chapter Representative

SHARON PARKER

Upper Valley Representative

KENNETH BARNES

Concord Chapter Representative

ANNE GROSSI

Manchester Chapter Representative

EVA CASTILLO

Community Representative

TRISTAN HUSBY

GSIAF Representative

Our Staff

SARAH JANE KNOY

Executive Director

ILIANA BARRETO

Office Manager & Latino Community
Coordinator

TORI MARKIEWICZ

Nashua Community Coordinator

MACKENZIE VERDINER

Youth Organizer

VIOLA KATUSIIME

Deputy Director

BRECKIE HAYES-SNOW

Operations Manager

MARTIN TOE

African & Clergy Organize

FAVOUR BEN-OKAFOR

Assistant Youth Organizer

SUDI LETT

Former Youth & Education Program Director

The people behind our power

Our Member Groups

Adult Learning Center of Nashua
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
First United Methodist Church
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
Pilgrim Congregational Church - UCC
St. Anne - St. Augustin Parish
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Sisters of Holy Cross
South Congregational Church, UCC
State Employees Assoc. of NH
Temple Beth Abraham - Tzedek Committee
Temple Beth Jacob
The First Church of Nashua
The Sisters of Mercy
Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua
Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford
United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1445
Upper Valley Jewish Community
Voices of Major Drive

Chapter Reports

Meetings occur every third Monday at 6:30pm in Nashua

Nashua Chapter

Since the 2024 election, the Nashua Chapter has grown in size and increased their activism around immigration issues. A Rapid Response team to address emergency I.C.E. situations and an Accompaniment team were created to support families affected by detentions. We began holding regular vigils to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors and to reaffirm that they are welcome in the Nashua community.

The Voices of Major Drive achieved several major victories this year through consistent organizing and advocacy. Residents successfully negotiated for solar panels on their redeveloped buildings, lower housing density, and the installation of playgrounds for children. These wins were secured by attending monthly Housing Authority board meetings and engaging with local leaders.

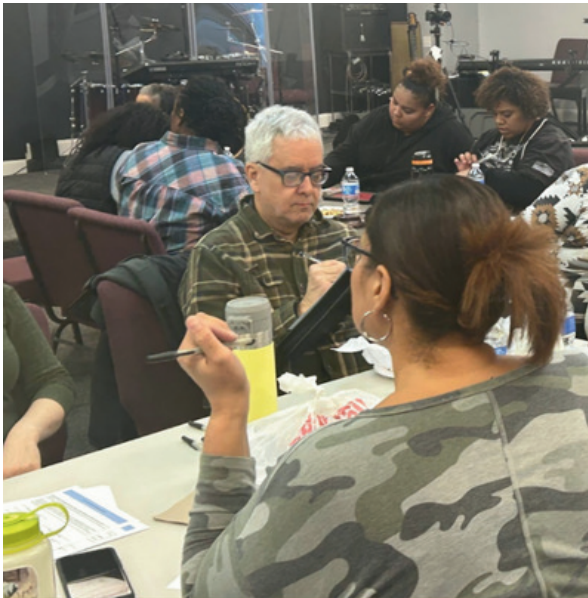


The Chapter organized several other actions: Get Out the Vote by canvassing neighborhoods and getting people to the polls; organizing Latino leaders to protest and discuss the elimination of the free pre-school program with the superintendent; meeting with city officials to support affordable housing; and a community meeting with the Nature Conservancy on the Merrimack Watershed Project to assess and improve community areas affected by climate change.

Manchester Chapter

Meetings occur every second
Tuesday at 6:00pm

The Manchester Chapter supported the Massachusetts-based Devencrest Tenant Association in a direct action to oppose the doubling of rents and renovation evictions by Brady Sullivan. This was an opportunity for GSOP to collaborate with and support tenants, seniors, people with disabilities, and working families.



The Chapter worked with The Nature Conservancy to organize focus groups with members of the community, including N.E.P. House of Praise in order to provide feedback about the Merrimack Watershed and to assess areas affected by climate change. The community spoke about the need for access to green spaces and expressed concerns about pollution, flood zones, and heat deserts.

Manchester Chapter members conducted research meetings with the Office of Economic Development about the importance of incentivizing affordable housing. The chapter took the lead to demand that the city require developers seeking tax or zoning benefits to accept Section 8 voucher holders. Chapter members have also been busy writing opinion pieces on housing issues for the local newspaper.



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

Upper Valley Chapter



Members speak up!

FORUM

Lebanon needs recovery housing

Recovery housing is on the ballot in Lebanon on March 11. Ballot question #2 seeks to amend zoning in residential districts to allow certified recovery houses. I enthusiastically support this change.

First, I feel the name should be "reintegration home" as the people who live there have been through rehabilitation/treatment for their drug or alcohol use disorder and are now ready to continue the work of reestablishing themselves as contributing members of a community.

I have had some experience with certified recovery housing when a relative accessed services of a recovery home in northern New Hampshire.

During my visits over the course of a year, I found the home clean, organized and well maintained inside and out. Staff provided good oversight with stringent expectations and rules. The folks living there were friendly and cordial, frequently asking to help us on the occasions we were carrying items to deliver to our loved one.

Daily 12-step meeting attendance was required, residents were connected to therapists and required to seek employment.

The recovery house resident found potential employers to be supportive, accepting and encouraging to the applicant, acknowledging the hard work the resident was doing to take new control of their life.

Three years later, we find our family member thriving in that New Hampshire community, with solid employment and active leadership roles in a local church, a regional theater and in surrounding communities.

We, the residents of Lebanon must provide the same opportunity to those who need a home base to continue the work of rebuilding their lives and reintegrating themselves into a community that will benefit from the skills and gifts they can bring to the whole of our Lebanon community.

JEANETTE HUTCHINS
West Lebanon

The Upper Valley Chapter supported funding to create recovery housing for people coming out of addiction in Lebanon by mobilizing people to attend meetings.

The Chapter supported a Lebanon group seeking to amend zoning laws to allow recovery housing. This ballot measure was approved by the voters at Town Meeting!

Chapter members in Hanover successfully lobbied their select board to fund the Lebanon shelter.

Members of the Chapter organized fundraisers to support the seasonal shelter in Lebanon, and the Warm Welcome run by a member congregation, Trinity Episcopal Church in Claremont.

The Chapter spoke in favor of amending Hanover zoning regulations to increase housing stock and create more affordable options. This initiative was passed by the voters at the May 2025 Town Meeting!

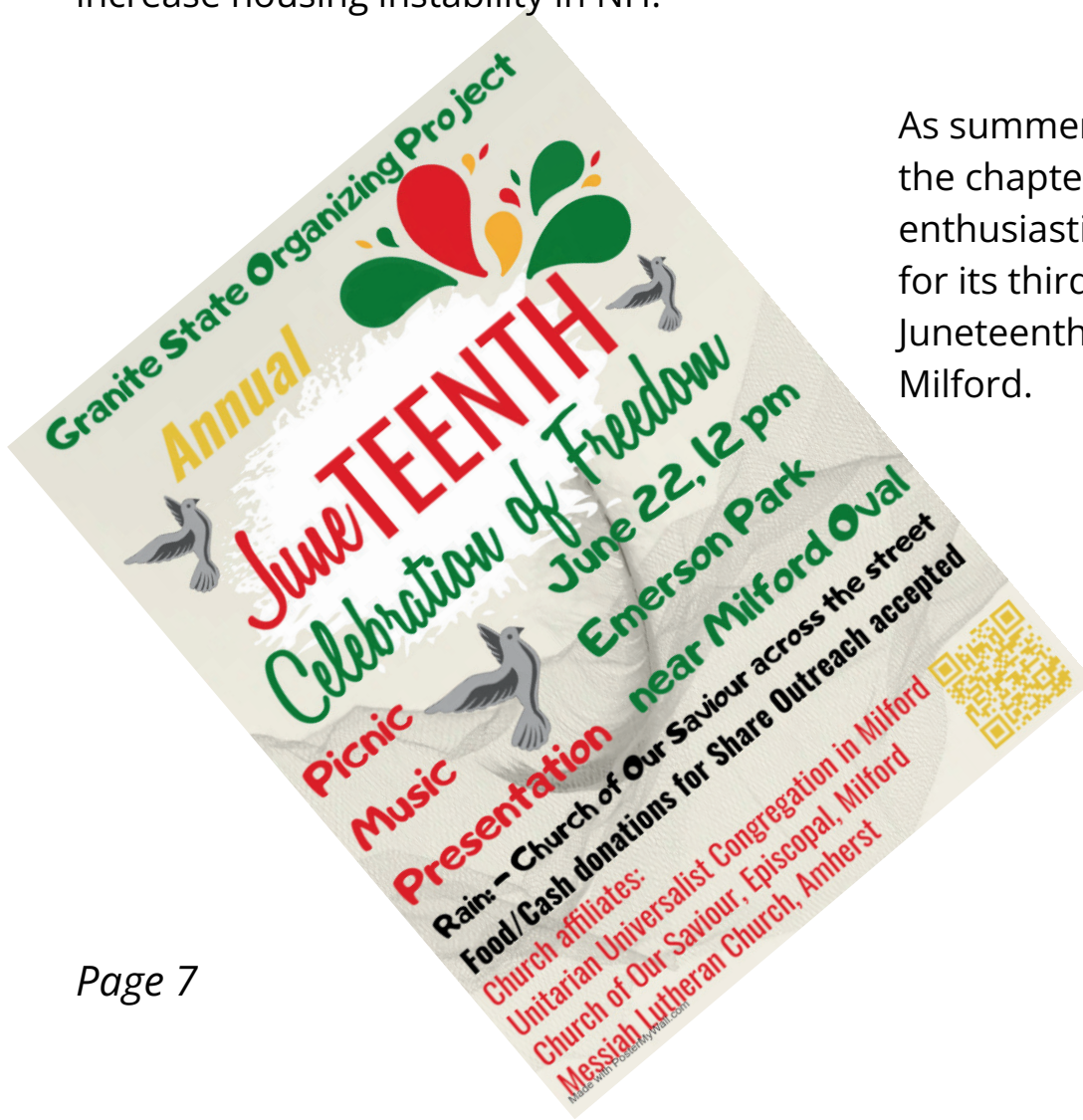
Souhegan Valley Chapter

*Vigils occur on the first Tuesday
of the month at 9:00am
followed by ISN meetings*

The Souhegan Valley Chapter has been focusing on food insecurity and the lack of available housing in their region of the state. Members are very concerned about the impact that federal and state budget cuts are having on food insecurity in the region. It is estimated that the local food bank could lose as much as 48,000 pounds of food this year if the budget cuts are passed.

Members are actively participating in ENVISION Milford sessions to encourage more affordable housing. They also met with their state senator to encourage opposition to HB 60, the eviction bill that would significantly increase housing instability in NH.

As summer approaches, the chapter is enthusiastically preparing for its third annual Juneteenth celebration in Milford.



GSOP PROJECTS

Immigrant Solidarity Network

*Vigils occur on the first Tuesday
of the month at 9:00am
followed by ISN meetings*

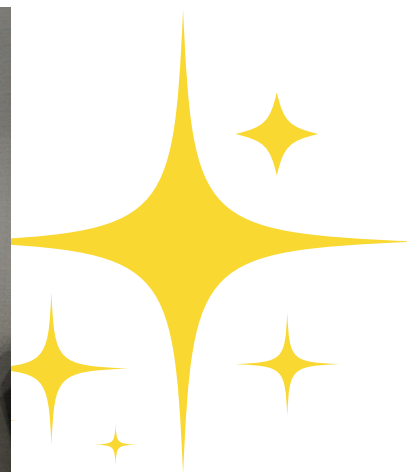
The NH Immigrant Solidarity Network, an initiative of GSOP, holds a powerful prayer vigil on the first Tuesday of every month outside the I.C.E. headquarters at the Norris Cotton Federal Building in Manchester. These monthly gatherings support our immigrant neighbors as they check in with I.C.E. officials. The vigils raise awareness and serve as a public witness to the need for compassionate immigration reform. Members are consistently present at the NH state house, offering testimony against harmful immigration legislation and standing in solidarity with those most impacted.



Young Organizers United

This year has been one of transition for YOU. Almost all of the students who were active during the 2023-2024 school year were seniors and graduated and in the Spring of 2025 longtime program director Sudi Lett left to pursue other opportunities.

The summer program focused on Organizing 101, teaching the community organizing cycle, including: base building, campaign development, problem to issue analysis, and other components of organizing. The students attended the Youth Leadership Institute, hosted by New England Youth Organizing Network (NEYON). YOU members supported GSOP election efforts by volunteering to stand at polls during the presidential election – holding signs and encouraging voting.



In the second half of the school year YOU worked to identify issues within the schools. We surveyed students from different high-schools and discussed the results to identify common concerns. Responses included both academic and facilities concerns; YOU held a listening session with parents to discuss the results.

In April, new Youth Organizer Mackenzie Verdiner led a public action. Eight students spoke against the mayor's school budget cuts at the meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Alderman. Seventeen members of the YOU base came to support these students. The meeting was witnessed by hundreds of people, not only in the room, but also on public television.

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Faith Leaders' Caucus

Last summer, as part of our Love 2024 Conversations, the GSOP Faith Leaders Caucus met with all five candidates for governor to engage in meaningful dialogue on key issues affecting our communities: housing, education, childcare, racism, immigration, and the minimum wage. These conversations gave faith leaders from across New Hampshire the chance to raise concerns often overlooked in political campaigns and to advocate for policies rooted in justice and compassion. We deeply appreciated that each candidate participated thoughtfully and agreed to continue the conversation if elected, offering a refreshing alternative to the usual divisive campaign rhetoric.

More clergy have been active in GSOP this year than in previous years, a growth sparked in part by the Love 2024 Conversations. This renewed engagement was fueled by the Revitalize Your Congregation training, led by Bishop Dwayne Royster of Faith In Action, and hosted in Concord by GSOP Faith Caucus members.



GSOP Faith Leaders

Latino Community Leadership

Latino leaders continue to empower and strengthen their community through trainings. Graduates of the 2025 Leadership Training joined the team of prior graduates this year. The expanded group is focused on healthcare (including access to dental care), education, and the environment.

Leaders met with elected officials, school district officials, local health providers and clinics, and community professionals seeking ways to address these inequities. Since January concerns about immigration, immigrant rights, and fears of family separation have taken the groups' focus.



Latino Leadership Graduates

Emerging Leader Konnections

Emerging Leader Konnections (ELK), founded by GSOP organizer Martin Toe, hosted three powerful community dinners in Manchester to engage young immigrants and first-generation Americans in conversations about voting and civic responsibility. Each event created space for dialogue, cultural connection, and empowerment. More than 100 people participated, many of whom committed to voting and encouraging others to do the same. These impactful gatherings, driven by ELK members and local faith leaders, laid the foundation for expanding this work to Concord and deepening civic engagement across immigrant communities in New Hampshire.



ELK Members in fellowship

2025

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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2025