



Connections

Autumn 2016

In This Issue

[Don't Frack With Our Health](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Fall Happenings](#)

[Save The Date - Haley House 50th Anniversary](#)

Be sure to find us on our social media pages!



Quick Links



Dear Friends,

It certainly has been a season of change for Community Works. We recently settled in to our new office at 14 Beacon Street just in time to welcome our new Interim Executive Director, Catherine Joseph! Catherine brings many years of non-profit leadership experience to the table and we are fortunate to have her on board.

Visit our web site at www.communityworks.com to learn what Community Works member groups are up to in the many neighborhoods in Greater Boston and beyond.

When making estate plans, please consider a social and economic justice legacy gift to Community Works.

<http://www.communityworks.com/get-involved/leaving-a-legacy/>

Are you registered to vote?

Remember, the last day to register to vote in the November 8, 2016 State Election is Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

Visit the [Secretary of the Commonwealth of MA's website](#) to check your voter registration status, register to vote in MA, find your poll location, change your name or address for registration purposes, and update your political party enrollment

Community Works Workplace Giving

Did you know you can support Community Works member organizations by donating through your workplace's annual charitable campaign? Community

DON'T FRACK WITH OUR HEALTH:

Breast Cancer Risks, Fracking and Dangerous Drilling
(Special thanks to Breast Cancer Action, a close colleague of Our Bodies Ourselves)

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is the dangerous and controversial method of extracting hard to reach oil and natural gas from underground wells. Fracking a single well involves combining millions of gallons of water with tens of thousands of gallons of chemicals, including known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and other chemicals of concern, and injecting the mixture deep below the earth's surface to break up rock formations and release the oil or natural gas contained within.

The technology widely used to frack for oil and gas has been in use for less than 10 years, yet this relatively new extraction method has created a booming industry: Since 2005, over 80,000 fracking wells have been established, and produced an estimated 280 billion gallons of wastewater in 2012 alone.

Many groups such as Breast Cancer Action oppose fracking and other forms of dangerous drilling because the practice exposes the broader public to toxic chemicals linked to breast cancer as well as a host of other health harms. Fracking can contaminate underground water supplies that directly threaten public health both in rural communities that reside near fracking sites as well as urban residents who live far from fracking operations. We have to act now rather than wait for the negative health impacts of fracking to reach even more pronounced levels. This means demanding that our regulatory agencies and elected legislators act now to protect public health and the environment from the hazardous impacts of fracking.

Fracking Chemicals are Linked to Breast Cancer and Other Health Harms



Works currently has over 30 partner businesses where employees may contribute to Community Works through an employee giving program. These include the Massachusetts State Employees Campaign (COMECC), the City of Boston Campaign (COBECC), and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

These giving programs allow you to make recurring or one-time donations through payroll deduction. This method of donating is beneficial for both you and for the group(s) you support. It allows you to effortlessly space out your contribution over the course of the year.

For many people this is more manageable than making a one-time gift by check or credit card. You can donate \$1.00 a paycheck, and at the end of the year you would have donated \$52.00!

This type of donation provides Community Works member groups with the consistent, sustainable support they need.

For a complete list of employers who currently honor payroll deduction donations to Community Works and to read what some employer partners have to say about our organization, please visit the [Giving at Work](#) page of our website. If you do not see your employer

A 2011 study by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce identified over 700 chemicals used in fracking, including dozens of "chemicals of concern." Benzene, acrylamide, ethylene oxide, Bisphenol A, and formaldehyde are chemicals used in fracking that are well-known carcinogens with proven links to increased risk of breast cancer.

Fracking also

involves the use of endocrine disrupting chemicals such as lead and Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate that can lead to increased reproductive problems and breast cancer.

While many more of the chemicals used in fracking are suspected of increasing our risk of breast cancer, there is insufficient research to confirm the full scale and impact of the health harms they cause. Fracking is associated with a host of additional diseases and disorders ranging from respiratory illnesses and reproductive problems to cancers. More serious health problems that develop over time are also a significant concern given that over a dozen proven or suspected carcinogens commonly used in fracking fluid are linked to diagnoses of leukemia, as well as stomach and pancreatic cancer, among other cancers.

In addition to a full review of the health impacts of fracking, there remain numerous unanswered questions about the health risks of fracking because companies refuse to fully disclose all the chemicals they use in drilling and fracking processes, citing "trade secrets." This lack of transparency and full disclosure is unacceptable. Furthermore, it leaves the public and regulators at a significant disadvantage when weighing the possible health risks.

Fracking Impacts Everyone

The chemicals used in fracking are toxic and threaten to poison and pollute our air, water and food supplies-- basic necessities for life. Fracking chemicals can leach into well water, seep into underground aquifers, and contaminate water supplies for people who live locally as well as residents in far-off cities. A 2012 study of fracking wells drilled in the Marcellus Shale of northeastern United States determined that it takes fracking chemicals "just a few years" to migrate into water supplies. However, fracking companies continue to insist that the process is safe because the chemicals used stay safely locked deep underground. Unfortunately, evidence suggests that this assertion is simply untrue. The inherent proximity of fracking chemicals to our water supply means that fracking chemicals cannot be separated from

on the list, please call us at [617-423-9555](tel:617-423-9555) or email

cwworkplace@communityworks.com for more information on how you can help Community Works become involved in your workplace's employee giving program.

Community Works Members

-Alternatives for Community & Environment

-ACLU-MA

-Asian American Resource Workshop

-Association of Haitian Women of Boston

-Boston Self Help Center

-Boston Tenant Coalition

-Boston Women's Fund

- Cambridge YWCA

-Communities Without Borders

-Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)

-Cooperative Artists Institute (CAI)

-Emerge: Counseling and Education to Stop Domestic Violence

-Greater Four Corners Action Coalition

-GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders)

our food chain. As cattle drink contaminated water and graze grass grown in contaminated soil, they will produce contaminated meat and dairy products.

Furthermore, agricultural products grown in contaminated soil and watered with contaminated water will easily carry toxic contaminants into our grocery products and onto our kitchen tables.

The Time to Act is Now!

Federal and state legislators and regulatory agencies have a responsibility to protect public health from the growing fracking industry. Fracking is grossly under-regulated, and an absence of common sense federal and state laws leave countless people vulnerable to significant risks. Find up to date information and opportunities to get involved at

www.bcaction.org/take-action/stop-fracking/ . To learn more about the health risks of fracking, read BCAction's new brochure at <http://bcaction.org/resources/breast-cancer-action-toolkits/>.

Breast Cancer Action's mission is to achieve health justice for all women at risk of and living with breast cancer. For more information go to www.bcaction.org .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACLU-MA

- We've Made a Breakthrough for Police Accountability

ACLU announced on September 13th that at least a hundred Boston police officers - including members of command staff - joined their counterparts in cities across the country by using body-worn cameras to document their encounters with civilians.

<https://aclum.org/uncategorized/body-worn-camera-breakthrough/>

Communities Without Borders - The Zambia 2016 Trip blog is now online! www.communitieswithoutborders.org

- Haley House

-Hawthorne Youth and Community Center

-Health Care for All, Inc.

- Jane Doe Inc., The Massachusetts Coalition
Against Sexual Assault and Domestic
Violence

-Mass Budget and Policy Center

-Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational
Safety and Health (MassCOSH)

-Massachusetts Senior Action Council

-Our Bodies Ourselves (also known as Boston
Women's Health Book Collective)

-Paige Academy

-Poor People's United Fund

-Renewal House (Benevolent Fraternity of
Unitarian Churches, Inc.)

-Ruby Rogers Center

-Survivors, Inc.

-Waltham Alliance to Create Housing, Inc.
(WATCH, Inc.)

-The Welcome Project

-The Women's Center, Inc.

Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center Reports:

- * *State and Local Impact of Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 in Massachusetts*
- * *U.S. and MA Households Make Meaningful Gains in 2015*
- * *Building a Strong Economy: The Roles of Education, Transportation, and Tax Policy*
- * *One in Seven Massachusetts Children Still in Poverty; Almost All Have Health Insurance*
- * *Health Reform at Work: Massachusetts Still National Leader in Health Insurance Coverage*
- * *2016 State of Working Massachusetts*
- * *Investing in People: Workforce Training in the Massachusetts State Budget*
- * *The SNAP Employment and Training Program: Opportunities to Expand Work Supports for Low-Income People in Massachusetts*

www.massbudget.org

MassCOSH seeks Executive Director

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) seeks a dynamic Executive Director to build on the organization's exceptional 40-year record of advocating for safe, healthy workplaces. MassCOSH's mission is to ensure that all workers can go to work and return home with their health and well-being intact. www.masscosh.org

Massachusetts Senior Action Council

has moved to 108 Myrtle St., Suite 112, Quincy, MA 02171.
[617.284-1234](tel:617.284-1234); www.masssenioraction.org.

Welfare Reform 20 Years Later

The **Poor People's United Fund** has been battling the belief that being poor is a moral problem. Twenty years ago, this was touted as the reason Welfare must be changed ... so we can reform the poor. Since the 'reforms', poor people in the Commonwealth lost nearly 50% of their income (primarily to the disappearance of Transitional Assistance to Families with Dependent Children TAFDC). Meanwhile, the top 10% in income gained a 50% hike. More at

<http://ppuf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Welfare-Reform-Had-Little-to-Do-With-Fighting-Poverty.pdf>

The **Women's Center** Calendar is published each month, listing all groups and workshops being offered at the Women's Center in Cambridge. The calendar is available on their website, distributed through their e-community, and hard copies are available at the

Center. www.cambridgewomenscenter.org/news.html

-

HAPPENINGS

Moral Mondays - On September 12th, the Poor People's United Fund joined interfaith clergy and residents to ask that Massachusetts stand with 25 other states in letting our public officials know that we are calling for a revolution of values.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber, II often says, "This is a movement, not a moment." On Thursday, September 29th from 6:00-8:30pm we will continue this conversation at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, 100 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury. Please stay tuned for more information and thank you for all that you do. www.ppuf.org

Paige Academy - Ahmed's Table

Photo and caption originally appeared in the Boston Banner

Saturday, October 1-Sunday, October 2

After a successful summer with 11 students in their Grow It, Cook It, Share It program, Hawthorne Youth and Community Center looks forward to sharing their site with local artists for the annual Roxbury Open Studios from 11:00 am-6:00 pm. They will have a craft activity for all ages. [617.427.0613](tel:617.427.0613); www.hyccroxbury.org.

HYCC Grow it, Cook It, Share It students learn from the pros how to plan a garden and the importance of bees as pollinators

Thursday, October 6

WATCH CDC and the League of Women Voters sponsor 2016 Election Info at 7:00 pm, Waltham Public Library, Lecture Hall, 735 Main St., Waltham. Register to vote. Learn about early voting and the ballot questions - charter schools, casino, treatment of farm animals, and legalizing marijuana. Free event. www.watchcdc.org.

Thursday, October 13

YWCA Cambridge Is On A Mission (1891-2016): 24th Tribute to Outstanding Women Awards Dinner will be held at 5:30 pm at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. For more than 125 years, the YWCA Cambridge has been affiliated with bright, articulate, strong and courageous women who share the commitment to eliminating racism and empowering women. In 2016, they celebrate their 24th Tribute to Outstanding Women, 24 years of honoring women who through their employment or volunteer activities are leaders in their communities. Whether they lead quietly behind the scenes or in highly visible roles, they make the Cambridge and Marshfield areas better places to live. [617.491.6050](tel:617.491.6050); www.bitly.com/YWTribute; www.ywcacam.org.

Saturday, October 15

Association of Haitian Women celebrates their 28th Anniversary at 6:30 pm at Generations Banquet Hall, 81 Memorial Dr., Avon. Join in an evening of food, dancing and community building. [617.287.0096](tel:617.287.0096); office@afab-kafanm.org; www.afab-kafanm.org.

Friday, October 28

GLAD's 17th Annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner honors Phill Wilson, Founder, President & CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, 6:30-11:00 pm at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston. www.glad.org.

Saturday, October 29

GLAD hosts A Conversation with Phill Wilson, Founder, President & CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, at 10:00 am at the Whittier Street Health Center, 1290 Tremont St., Roxbury. This is a special free event, open to the community, following the 2016 Spirit of Justice Award Dinner the prior evening. www.glad.org.

Sunday, October 30

Hawthorne Youth and Community Center celebrates the fall and Halloween in Marcella Park in Roxbury. Activities and snacks from 3:00-5:00 pm. Wear your best costume! [617.427.0613](tel:617.427.0613); www.hyccroxbury.org.

Thursday, November 17

Everyone is welcome to attend the YWCA Cambridge Annual Thanksgiving Dinner from 12:00-2:30 pm at 7 Temple St., Cambridge; [617.491.6050](tel:617.491.6050); www.ywcacam.org.

SAVE THE DATE

***Haley House 50th Anniversary
Weekend***

*Friday, December 2nd - Sunday,
December 4th*



Friday - Annual Charlie King Folk Concert featuring Bev Grant & friends - 7:30 pm

Saturday - Social Justice Forums - 10:30 am-2:30 pm; HH50 Gala - 6:30 pm Dinner & Dancing

Sunday - Gathering for Spiritual Reflection - 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tickets & Info: www.haleyhouse.org/50years/

Guess what?

You can now designate a charity with Amazon for all your purchases instead of having to link to Amazon through a third party site like Community Works! You can now list Community Works as your designated charity at Amazon so automatically any purchase is linked with CW! Once you sign up the only thing you have to make sure to do is change your bookmarks for Amazon to smile.amazon.com. Although the web page is the same, Amazon.com purchases will not link to CW.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Catherine J., Mary, Catherine B., Meredith, Annie and Dalia.

Community Works

14 Beacon Street, suite 719

Boston, MA 02108

[617-423-9555](tel:6174239555)

Community Works, 14 Beacon Street, suite 719, Boston, MA 02108