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Connections - Winter 2016

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Winter

Dear Friends,

Community Works sends warm wishes and appreciation to all our readers for the many gifts you have shared with us.

May 2017 be filled with increasing acts of kindness and goodwill to all

Happy New Year.

Catherine Joseph

Sanctuary Cities

by Ben Echevarria (Welcome Project)

Since the election immigration groups, and sanctuary cities have been scrambling to prepare what will come with the new administration, which has been hostile to both immigrants and sanctuary cities. At Community Works groups like The Welcome Project and MassCOSH have



Thank you to all our workplace partners for another successful campaign year!

been working hard to ensure immigrants are protected. Recently Executive Director of The Welcome Project wrote a pro side of a Globe argument on Sanctuary Cities. The Article can be found [here](#) and talks about several benefits that immigrants add to Somerville.

Sanctuary cities are not a lawless zone, but a place that allows anyone to be part of a community dedicated to its residents. Sanctuary cities want good residents regardless of legal status. They want residents who will be active within the community, work to improve upon issues of the community, and make the city the best it can. Sanctuary cities don't want those who commit crimes against the community, regardless of their immigration status. The incident of Juan Lopez-Sanchez in San Francisco is tragic, cases of releasing a wanted criminal are rare, and according to CNN less than 5% of those in jail are undocumented immigrants. This number includes those being detained for being here illegally and for actual crimes. The larger concern for police is having groups that will not report crimes, or assist in criminal investigations because of fear they may be deported. This is why many local law enforcements support cities becoming sanctuary cities.

Many decide to point to a false argument of immigrants being a drag on our government and cost us too much money. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy produced a report finding that immigrants pay \$11.64 billion dollars to the government yearly. However how much they contribute is only one aspect of their contributions to the economy. Immigrants add in many other ways which is hard to measure. For instance, in Somerville The Welcome Project's, International Parents Group worked with the schools to create better schools for English Language Learning students. Because of this the school district saw improvements in their education. This led to Somerville having a better school system. Having a better school system raising the value of property. The Somerville Human Rights Commission worked with immigrants and police to create the first Immigrant-Police dialogue. These dialogues improved policing and lowered crime. Lower crime rates increase property values.

Sanctuary cities are about people and your community. When a community works together to ensure all of its residents are represented, protected, and have their voices heard the community wins.

Addressing Homelessness

Talk to us if you would like to have a Community Works campaign at your workplace.

Be sure to find us on our new social media pages!



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Cambridge YWCA for 125 years, dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting social justice and freedom and dignity for all: The Cambridge YWCA has been a strong advocate for women's rights, fair labor practices, and safe working conditions since 1891! These same values have endured and continue to contribute to the well-being of us all.

Community Works congratulates the YWCA Cambridge, CW's newest Associate Member, as the Y celebrates its 125 years of offering a safe, affordable residence for women and girls. Founded in 1891 programs offered to young women moving into the work force for the first time were skills in teaching, etiquette, penmanship and proper behavior for the workplace. As new skills were needed the Y has evolved to meet those needs!

Today the Y remains the largest, affordable residence for young women in Cambridge. Among several community based services it has developed programs assisting homeless families and a summer camp for over 100 children.

The YWCA Cambridge continues to be a strong advocate for women and all human rights, fair labor practices and safe working conditions. As we write, the YWCA Camb is working closely with Cambridge Mayor, Denise Simmons to secure shelter for families displaced by the recent fire that destroyed homes in Cambridge.

Other CW Member Organizations working to eliminate homelessness include **Poor People's United Fund, Renewal House, Haley House and the Boston Tenant Coalition.**

At the state level, House Bill 1129 is The Homeless Bill of Rights would entitle those experiencing homelessness to the same rights as any other resident of Massachusetts and seeks to outline those rights so as to prevent discrimination based on housing status. "No person's rights, privileges, or access to public services may be denied or abridged solely because he or she is experiencing homelessness."

CW Members



-Alternatives for Community & Environment

-American Civil Liberties Union-MA

-Asian American Resource Workshop

-Association of Haitian Women of Boston

-Boston Self Help Center

-Boston Tenant Coalition

-Boston Women's Fund

-Communities Without Borders

-Concerned United Birthparents(CUB)

-Cooperative Artists Institute(CAI)

-Emerge: Counseling and Education to Stop Domestic Violence

Announcements

Reports from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center:

- Building A Strong Economy: The Roles of Education, Transportation, and Tax Policy
- In 16 Charts: Higher Education Funding in Massachusetts
- Skills For Our Future: Vocational Education in Massachusetts
- Issue Brief: Vocational Education
- Counting Kids at School: 6 Steps to Better Numbers
- The Growing Cost of Special Business Tax Break Spending
- U.S. and MA Households Make Meaningful Gains in 2015
- 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 in Massachusetts

<http://massbudget.org>

MassCOSH Held A Candlelight Vigil for Public Sector Worker Safety

MassCOSH (Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health) held a Candlelight Vigil on December 20, 2016, to remember those who are no longer with us and to ask lawmakers to finally pass equal workplace protections for equal work. This holiday season, too many families will be missing a loved one who lost their life due to dangerous work. For information, contact: sean.mulkerrin@masscosh.org.

An Act to Further Define Standards of Employee Safety

This past January 3, our hopes of passing S.2190, An Act to Further Define Standards of Employee Safety, expired with the close of the 189th session of the state Legislature. Public workers were again left without OSHA protections all those in the private sector enjoy.

It was a very disappointing setback, but we have the opportunity to build on the momentum of last session. Together, we can persuade our elected leaders that this bill will save lives.

But we need your help, not only with S.2190, but with all the workplace health and safety legislation MassCOSH and our allies will be advocating for to ensure safe workplaces.

-Greater Four Corners Action Coalition

-GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)

Haley House

-Hawthorne Youth and Community Center

-Health Care for All, Inc.

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

Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center

-Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)

-Massachusetts Senior Action Council

-Mental Patients Liberation Front (Ruby Roger Center)

-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.)

For more information on how you can take part in advocating for better workplace protections, please email jeff.newton@masscosh.org.

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.

Winter Happenings

Wednesday, January 11

Attend Health Care for All's Health Care Enrollment Session, 9:30 am-1:30 pm to apply for health insurance or change your plan. Help will be available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. You can also call Health Care for All's HelpLine at [800.272.4232](tel:800.272.4232) for answers to your health insurance questions.

www.hcfama.org

Friday, January 13

"The House Slam" at the Haley House Café,

12 Dade St., Roxbury, is Boston's New Poetry Slam venue in the heart of Dudley Square. Venue offers awesome food, an open mic, a featured poet, and a poetry slam every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Poetry slam: 7:15 pm. Featured poet: Omar Holmon: 8:45 pm. Open mic: 9:20 pm. The venue is free of cost and welcoming to all over 18 (Bring ID).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/223046361453598/>

3rd Sunday of the Month - January to May

Boston CUB (Concerned United Birthparents)

meetings are held from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Plymouth Congregational Church (downstairs), Edgell Rd., Framingham. As adoptees and birthparents, most of us have felt isolated. Many of us have

-Survivors, Inc.

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

YWCA Cambridge

-The Welcome Project

-The Women's Center, Inc.



never shared our feelings with anyone. At CUB we learn that we are not alone or unique, that there are others who understand and share our feelings. By contacting CUB, you will take the first step toward coming to terms with the past. We welcome you.

www.cubirthparents.org/boston.php

Friday, January 27

Communities Without Borders presents a concert at Boston University with the Belmont Festival Orchestra and the Triple Helix Trio. www.communitieswithoutborders.org

Wednesday, February 15-Friday, February 17

Emerge will offer Counseling Abusers: An Introductory Training at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 630 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA. This course is intended for anyone working with families affected by domestic violence. Participants will learn the Emerge curriculum and how it compares to other models.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ed8zuso904ec6a45&llr=hsyejrbab>

Save the Date

Saturday, January 21st- 11 am to 3 pm

Boston Women's March For America

on Boston Common

www.bostonwomensmarchforamerica.org

www.facebook.com/BosWomensMarch



Wednesday, March 1

Jane Doe Inc. Massachusetts White Ribbon Day

www.janedoe.org

2017 is CW's 35th Anniversary year!

Let us know if you are interested in attending one of several houseparties to meet CW Members up close and personal.

Look for opportunities to support Social Justice in 2017.

A Thank you from CW member Hawthorne Youth and Community Center.

December 14, 2016

Dear Community Works Members,

The Hawthorne Youth and Community Center Board wants to thank you for your support this past year. We are gratified that you see the value in our programs for the community. Please visit our social media platforms at www.hyccroxbury.org, @hycc and Facebook to get updates.

As many of you are aware the renovation to the center depleted our reserve funds so we have been writing grants for our Grow It, Cook It, Share It urban gardening and healthy eating program. In the past month, HYCC received several grants totaling over \$40,000. These grants will help us grow the program into a full year endeavor. Grant support came from The Boston Foundation, Open Door Grants Program, Boston Society of Architects, The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation and New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Earlier in the year, we received a grant from The Greely Foundation from Jericho Road



through the UUUM. And lastly, we received gift card support from Wegman's Market in Chestnut Hill.

We are recruiting students ages 14-18 for 10 hours per week for GCS during the school year and able to pay them a stipend. Please call the center and speak with Danielle Sommer for more information. These are the students who also provide our community table. Last summer we were able to have 7 meals which were very successful.

Without your support we would not have been able to maintain and grow. Thank you for being a community that cares!

Moving forward,
Daniel Janey, chairperson
HYCC Board of Directors

Community Works would also like to say..THANK YOU... for your unwavering commitment to social and economic justice.

Happy New Year from staff, volunteers and interns at
Community Works!

Sincerely,
Catherine, Mary, and Meredith.

Have a wonderful Winter
season!

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