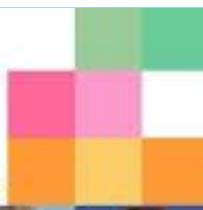




Welcome to Community Works.
You can make a difference here.

25 West Street, Boston, MA 02111 | 617.423.8555



Connections - Winter 2017

Donate Now

Secure donations through
Network for Good

Please make your year end gift to Community Works today! Click Donate Now button to make your tax deductible gift. Thank you

Winter



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

Talk to us if you would like to have a Community Works campaign at your workplace contact Catherine at cjoseph@communityworks.com

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



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Greetings!

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

May 2018 be filled with increasing acts of kindness and goodwill to all

Happy New Year.
Catherine Joseph

Community Works Celebrates Social Justice Month October 2017

By Bob Hachey

October 2 was a very special day for Community Works. Mayor Marty Walsh declared this date to be Social Justice Day in the city of Boston. This was the highlight of Social Justice Month.

Social justice is at the heart of all of the good work done by Community Works' 29 member organizations. From the ACLU of Massachusetts to the YWCA of Cambridge, these organizations provide many kinds of social justice ranging from creating affordable housing and English as a second language programs to offering safe haven to individuals in crisis.

Community Works participated in Green Fest from August 11-13 and persons who stopped by our table offered these thoughts regarding social justice:

- ...a level playing field... not the 1%.... Holistic Legislation
...Fairness for ALL
- Creating equity - Creating Peace
- Inclusion of people of all abilities, races, cultures, and diversity
- Well-being for ALL! Equal opportunity for every person
- Equal rights & opportunities for all humans
- Helping Others and Protecting the Environment



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[Save the Date](#)

[Volunteers Needed](#)

The Welcome Project is looking for volunteers to help them with their Rapid Response Network, which offers a wide range of support to ensure that undocumented immigrants are protected. If you are interested, contact volunteer@welcomeproject.org

[Quick Links](#)

[Community Works](#)

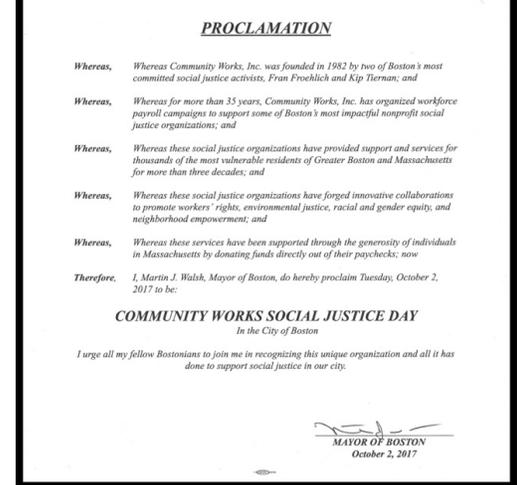
[Community Shares USA](#)

[Winter](#)



• Equality for Everyone!
Fighting climate change and creating a safer environment

- Respect communication & living in harmony with all people
- Health Equality! Education for all! Housing for All!
- TEAMWORK
- Equal Access
- Justice for ALL
- Public Safety
- Do unto others as you would have them do to you!
- No parz todos lo mismo... para cada uno lo que necesite.
- Right over Wrong
- The constant work to improve standards of living and equal treatment for everyone.
- Civic Engagement.



Here are my thoughts on social justice. It is the attempt to empower otherwise disenfranchised persons within a society. It is remembering to take good care of those left behind by a fast-moving economy. It is treating all women and girls as fully equal and participating members of society. It is fighting to stem the growing tide of income inequality. In conclusion, October was a very special month for Community Works and its member organizations. The recognition we received through the press as well as the Mayor's proclamation will allow us to raise more funds and foster the growth of social justice.

Paige Academy Annual Kwanzaa Celebration and Fundraiser





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

-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 Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)

-Massachusetts Senior Action Council

-Mental Patients Liberation Front (Ruby Roger Center)

Paige Academy is an independent school offering a comprehensive, culturally affirming and developmentally based educational environment. We provide Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Programs as well as our Elementary School grades k-6 with curriculum in Arts, Sciences, Humanities, and Technology for children ages 6 to 12 years.

Paige Academy embraces the concept that cultural resonance expressed through an ethnically abundant educational community enhances the quality of a child's academic and intellectual experience.

Paige seeks to create a stimulating tapestry of diversity in its community of students, parents, staff and faculty. Paige employs a multilingual, international, teaching and administrative staff that represents the many people and cultures of the Diaspora.

Paige Academy is currently in the process of a capital campaign in order to renovate and increase classrooms on our campus. We have a donor who will match 1 million dollars if we can raise 1 million.

Our executive director Dr. Angela Cook along with 6 others founded the school in 1970 over 47 years ago. Dr. Angela Cook recently turned 70 years old in November. In honor of her birthday we had a online fundraiser entitled "Seventy is Heavenly" on Wednesday Nov. 29th and asked for a contribution of \$70 dollars in representation of how many years she has been on this Earth.

Paige Academy's upcoming fundraiser is our annual **Kwanza Celebration**. . In these trying times of social and racial justice issues and current political climate it is imperative that all communities regardless of race, age, religion or economic status come together and discuss what matters. We invite you to come and join us in these discussions and to share your thoughts and concerns in our safe spaces.

The event will be held at the First Church in Roxbury one of the oldest churches in Roxbury. On **Saturday, December 30th, 2017** 5:30pm - 8:30pm. **Tickets** are \$40 dollars. Your ticket price will include Drum, Dance, Live Music, a Candle Lighting Ceremony for the Nguzo Saba Principles, Food and Drink

You can find out more information about our upcoming Kwanza by visiting our website at www.paigeacademy.org

Poor People's United Fund

For nearly 40 years, Poor People's United Fund, has tried to engage the greater community in addressing problems that affect quality of life.

-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.)

-Survivors, Inc.

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

YWCA Cambridge

-The Welcome Project

-The Women's Center, Inc.

Winter



PPUF is frequently the last resort for poor individuals and groups who have been refused help from every other known source.

The purpose of PPUF is: To provide the urban poor with Hands-On Assistance, that "one-more thing" they need to survive or to improve their condition; alleviate the suffering that Boston's poor people endure due to hunger, homelessness or injustice; to broaden the public's understanding of the harsh realities of poverty; to encourage a caring and supportive attitude towards the poor.

This **season** is not really about losing ourselves in consumerism and getting more stuff. Whether one celebrates Christmas, Kwanza or Chanukah --It's **all about the light** --- the lights in windows--- on trees- the sense of hope we get from the returning sun at solstice---given the darkness being heaped upon us these days...reflecting on the meaning of light and darkness within ourselves and within our society seems more important than ever.



As PPUF Co-founder **Kip Tiernan** liked to say....

"Compassion, my friends, is not a simpering slogan or a lachrymose litany of smiley faces. It is, I suggest, a discipline - one that demands action based on the idea of suffering together." (Kip Tiernan)

Being people who care about social justice ain't easy for sure. Because it means we keep ongoing no matter how dark things may look.

At PPUF we believe that the holiday season of light reminds us that we must safeguard our moral spiritual homes and keep the flame of compassion glowing despite the efforts of those who rather sow darkness.

PPUF takes no funds from city, state or federal governments. So depends on the kindness of both strangers and friends. We are happy to be in the company of our Community Works sisters and brothers seeking social justice.

Announcements

Hawthorne Youth and Community Center

The Board and Directors of **Hawthorne Youth & Community Center** selected **Liz Miranda**, Roxbury native and resident to be their **new leader**. Miranda, a lifelong community builder, youth advocate and Entrepreneur hopes to continue to build upon the legacy of the late Samantha Sadd " Sam". Sam helped over three generations of Roxbury residents at HYCC learn to ski, go to camp, fall in love with the Arts and build bridges in Roxbury. It was always Liz's Dream to operate a community



center within her beloved Roxbury where young people would thrive. Liz will work closely with the neighborhoods we serve to further HYCC's mission to provide educational, cultural, and recreational programs for community youth and adults, to recognize and celebrate the rich diversity of the community, and to provide a forum for neighbors to work together to improve the quality of neighborhood life.



Earlier this month we received a Love Your Block Award for our Community Garden from the Mayors Office for Civic Engagement.



GLAD

and their partners at NCLR are supporting two petitions seeking Supreme Court review in cases challenging a sweeping religious refusal law in Mississippi. The law gives a free pass to discriminate in public and private settings based upon asserted anti-LGBTQ beliefs, but the federal 5th Circuit Court of Appeals said LGBTQ citizens had no standing to challenge the law until they were harmed by it. Our brief at the Supreme Court in Barber v. Bryant argues, among other things, that legislation authorizing public and private discrimination against LGBTQ people is prohibited class legislation. Additionally, GLAD is supporting three critical cases - one of which has already been taken by the U.S. Supreme Court and two others it has been asked to take - that question the recognition of LGBTQ people as equal citizens.

Member Collaboration Spotlight

Access Original Birth Certificates For ALL
by Kathleen Aghajanian, Concerned United Birthparents

Along with being the Coordinator & Director for Boston CUB, I am also a Committee Member of Access Massachusetts. Access Massachusetts is a grassroots effort dedicated to restoring the human right to access original birth certificates to ALL adopted persons born in Massachusetts.

[FAQs. Frequently Asked Questions.](#)



Why do we need to amend MA law?

It is a human right to have a record of ones birth.

Current Massachusetts law denies this basic human right to adopted persons born in Massachusetts between July 18,1974 and January 1, 2008.

Adopted persons born in the "gap years" should have the same human right as all other people born in Massachusetts.

H.1163 and S.1195 – now pending in the MA legislature– would right this wrong.

Don't adopted people have birth certificates?

Yes, but their birth certificates are amended at the time of adoption.

The names of the birth/first parents are deleted, and replaced by the names of adoptive parents.

The adopted persons original name is deleted, and replaced with the name chosen by the adoptive family.

Opponents of access to original birth certificates claim birth/first parents were promised confidentiality and that passage of these bills would break that promise. In reality birth parents identities could never be fully protected.

. An adopted person can petition the court for their identifying information.

. Many adoptees have used the Internet to search and have found their birth parents.

. Not one surrender document has ever been produced that indicates that birth parents were promised confidentiality.

Birth parents who relinquished their children before 1974 clearly knew identifying information would be available to their adopted child when they turned 18 years of age.

. Original birth certificates are not altered until the time of adoption; if there is no adoption, identifying information about original parents who relinquished parental rights, or whose rights were terminated, remains unsealed and accessible.

Would H.1163 and S1195 open adoption records?

No. The bills pending in Massachusetts simply allow ALL adopted persons equal access to their original birth certificates, regardless of the years of their birth.

Amendment to M.G.L.. Chapter 210, which governs access to adoption records, is not proposed in these bills.

For more information about H.1163 and S.1195 you can visit Access Massachusetts website at www.OCforMA.org

Representatives and members of CUB have appeared and testified before the Mass legislature on two occasions & each time our bill has passed favorably and now we await the third phase & hope we will receive a favorable outcome.

If you would like to support Massachusetts's efforts please contact your Congressmen and Senators and ask them to support Access Massachusetts efforts to amend M.G.L. Chapter 46 Section 2B by striking language that discriminates against people born between July 17,1974 & Jan.1, 2008 & ask them to please support equal access to original birth certificates for ALL adopted persons born in Massachusetts.Support H.1163/S.1195

Save the Date



Have a wonderful Winter season!

Travel to Zambia with Communities Without Borders A Service Learning Experience

Trip Dates: End of June-Mid July
Registration Deadline: March 1, 2018

\$1725 per person based on double occupancy
Airfare \$1800 per person -approximately
\$500 donation (tax deductible)

Price Includes
Trip Leaders
Transportation
Accommodation & Lodging
Food & Snacks
Trip to Livingston & Victoria Falls

For more information, contact Amy Archibald at Communities Without Borders, aarchibald@billericak12.com.



Saturday, April 7 & Sunday, April 8

Belmont Festival Orchestra & Nathaniel Meyer,
conductor Triple Helix Piano Trio An

All Mozart Concert

Saturday, April 7, 8pm First Church Cambridge 11 Garden St,
Cambridge FirstChurchCambridge.org Sunday, April 8, 3pm First
Unitarian Society in Newton 1326 Washington St, Newton fusn.org
Tickets: \$30, Students \$15 cwbusa.org/concerts-2018-01

All proceeds benefit Communities Without Borders



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

Sincerely,

Catherine, Mary and the entire Community Works membership!

Community Works

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