

2016

ANNUAL
REPORT



Fulfilling our Shared Vision.



Christian
Activities
Council



*Leading
the Change.*

Setting an ambitious vision for the future, CAC believes that a diversity of resident leaders throughout Greater Hartford will assert their collective political and social capital to influence and hold decision makers accountable to the people. Resident leaders will have the skills and knowledge to make their voices heard. Together with faith-based institutions and community partners, residents will be a recognized center of power and a force to be reckoned with. As a result, Greater Hartford will experience concrete social justice reforms that level the playing field and benefit residents.

In 2016 CAC took promising steps forward, determined to move closer to this vision. We provided leadership and organizing training to parents from Martin Luther King School in their successful campaign to keep MLK's doors open, and to Thirman Milner School parents who won significant safety upgrades. CAC launched its first CDF® Freedom School summer program for students from the North End of Hartford which provided dynamic, social action oriented summer programming.

And during one of the most tumultuous political times in modern U.S. history, CAC provided training and support to over 60 clergy from all faith traditions on the art and skills of engaging our faith communities in public life so as to faithfully carry out the ministry of social justice.

With renewed vision, organizing wins, and increased partnerships, CAC had a strong 2016 and looks forward to 2017, aiming to make a lasting impact for justice in greater Hartford.



Cori Mackey
Executive Director



Rev. Mark Deters
Board President



PARENTS WIN CAMPAIGN TO KEEP DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOOL OPEN

For many years, the City of Hartford has diverted funds slated for the renovation of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School (MLK) in Hartford's North End.

Beset by years of disinvestment, CAC began working with parents and staff from MLK in April 2016 when they discovered that HPS was relocating the students to the basement of another school during the long anticipated renovations. However, just weeks before the start of summer break, parents and CAC organizers learned that the City diverted the funds once again and canceled renovations.

Students, their families, and school staff sprang into action when they realized that despite canceled renovations HPS still scheduled the basement relocation, effectively closing MLK and warehousing the students without a long-term plan.

Parents and teachers unanimously voted to remain at MLK until there was a better plan in place. However, after numerous negotiations with HPS, it became clear that the move was inevitable without a public action.

On June 1, 2016, CAC, parents, students, teachers, and community members held a press conference that clearly laid out the injustice against these students. On June 14, just two weeks later, the Superintendent of HPS called a meeting to inform parents and CAC organizers that the school would remain open. With CAC's help, the parents have tasted the power of organizing and vowed to continue the fight for what is best for North End students.

MLK PARENT LEADER ON THE RISE: Natalie Langlaise

Ms. Langlaise, a mother and parent leader at MLK, participated in CAC's leadership training and served as a primary leader in developing the MLK campaign's organizing strategy and negotiating with city and district officials.





CAC has impacted my life in many positive ways. I enhanced my leadership skills and learned to effectively engage others at both micro and macro levels. I am more confident and capable, not afraid to challenge injustice in a professional and well organized manner.”

For Ms. Langlaise, now in her second year of college majoring in social services, “the CAC was a great support system for myself and other disenfranchised parents. They stirred within me a renewed awareness that with perseverance, dedication and hard work all things are possible.”

Ms. Langlaise has since been appointed to the citywide school consolidation task force and to serve on the search committee for Hartford’s new Superintendent.

CLERGY ORGANIZING

Imagine what life in our greater Hartford region could be like if our religious institutions actually possessed the moral force to make it a more just and equitable place?

For one year, CAC's staff visited scores of clergy across fifteen towns to seek out such imagination.

The fruit of that exploratory work led to the formation of the Greater Hartford Sponsoring Committee. From their initial meeting in September 2016, this group of over 50 imams, rabbis, priests and ministers has been meeting regularly to build relationships of trust, discuss issues of common concern, and explore the architecture of building a faith-based organization in the region.

"When I moved here, I was very excited to learn about CAC," stated Rev. Kari Nicewander of Immanuel Congregational Church. "This process has helped me learn, grow, and be a better pastor." Rev. Amanda Nelson, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, stated, "I can now see how change IS possible. The relationships I have gained will sustain me in ministry for a long time."

If these clergy succeed in inviting their congregations into leadership together, the force for change that they unleash could change Hartford in major ways and introduce a new power to be reckoned with.



Photo courtesy of The Hartford Courant

WITH CAC'S HELP MILNER PARENTS SOLVE 20-YEAR ISSUE IN 3 MONTHS


On March 8, 2017, parents, students and neighbors gathered to celebrate a major win in the fight for increased safety at Thirman Milner School.



With CAC's help, parents organized to solve security issues that plagued the North End school for more than 20 years in 3 months! The parents victoriously secured a fence to enclose the playground from trespassers and vehicles during school hours and new stop signs, speed bumps and additional security signage.

Rev. AJ Johnson, an organizer for CAC, provided leadership and organizing

training for the parents in action research, power analysis, and building solidarity. The parents won all of the safety upgrades requested and continue to participate in leadership classes to identify the next set of issues to address in the school and their community. All major print and TV news outlets in the Hartford area covered the organizing victories at a celebratory press conference.

A young boy with a joyful expression is shown from the chest up, holding two wooden drumsticks. He is wearing a dark brown t-shirt. The background is softly blurred, showing other children in a classroom or rehearsal space. A light-colored rectangular box with a quote is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Being an SLI is about being empowered in your God-given talents and then going and sharing that with your scholars so that you and they can go and change the world."

— MALACHI MOUNING
Servant Leader Intern

2016 FREEDOM SCHOOL

During the summer of 2016 CAC successfully launched a CDF® Freedom School at Thirman Milner, serving 75 kids in a six-week, full-day summer program.

Freedom School is a national model that provides an evidence-based, culturally rich literacy curriculum that has proven effective at helping youth from low income communities retain their reading ability during the summer months. Our program also provides afternoons filled with engaging enrichment classes and numerous field trips.

A hallmark of the Freedom School model is that it is staffed by young adult interns who come from the same community and neighborhoods as the students they are serving. The young adults receive national training that is immersed in the spirit of the civil rights movement and often leads to long-term engagement in urban education and justice efforts.



It feels good to be a part of the Freedom School training again. I cannot wait to use the tools and information we have received to inform and empower scholars, teachers, parents, and Hartford community members—just like the Children’s Defense Fund has empowered me to make a difference in my community.”

— GABRIELLE BAGOT | *Servant Leader Intern*



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

City of Hartford was ordered to pay displaced residents **\$6.25 million** because of Greater Hartford Legal Aid class action lawsuit and CAC's 2015 organizing campaign with displaced residents.

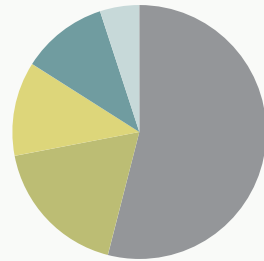
150 parents, students, staff, and community members organized and won the campaign to keep Martin Luther King Jr. school open.

12 parents participated in organizing leadership training and formed a PTO at Thirman Milner School that won safety upgrades including a new security gate, crosswalks, stop signs, and speed bumps.

75 scholars in grades K-3 completed the six-week Freedom School summer program in Hartford and maintained or increased their reading level.

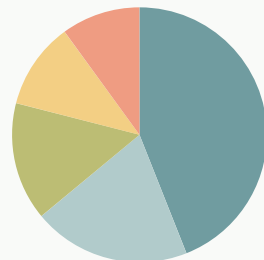
63 religious leaders from Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and other traditions are engaged in CAC's faith-based organizing initiative

2016 Revenue



Investment Income	54%
Contributions and Grants	18%
Rental Income	12%
Property Development	11%
Other	5%

2016 Expenses by Program



Organizing	44%
Affordable Housing	20%
Management and General	15%
Fundraising	11%
Youth Education	10%

2016 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	87,096
Accounts receivable	79,439
Mortgages and loans receivable, current	7,106
Development costs/properties for resale	25,060
Other current assets	8,977
Total Current Assets	207,678

Non-current Assets

Fixed assets, net	135,299
Land leases	4,377,863
Mortgages and loans receivable, long-term	121,208
Investments	5,901,399
Total Non-current Assets	10,535,769
Total Assets	\$10,743,447

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,695
Total Current Liabilities	4,695

Net Assets

Unrestricted	(474,198)
Temporarily restricted	2,962,718
Permanently restricted	8,250,232
Total Net Assets	10,738,752
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,743,447

2016 audit performed by Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C. is available upon request.

CHURCH
CONTRIBUTIONS



TOTAL CHURCH
CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$25,641

Asylum Hill
Congregational
Church

\$1,200

Avon
Congregational
Church

\$816

Buckingham
Congregational
Church

\$700

Congregational
Church of
Marlborough

\$515

Congregational
Church of South
Glastonbury

\$4,800

East Granby
Congregational
Church

\$2,000

Elmwood
Community Church

\$150

First Church,
Glastonbury

\$500

First Church
of Christ,
Hartford

\$1,200

First Church
of Christ,
Simsbury

\$1,500

First Church
in Windsor

\$500

First
Congregational
Church in
Bloomfield

\$500

First
Congregational
Church of
Granby

\$500

Hartford
Association UCC

\$2,500

Immanuel
Congregational
Church

\$1,200

Missionary Society
of Connecticut

\$710

North United
Methodist Church

\$300

Rocky Hill
Congregational
Church

\$4,800

Somers
Congregational
Church

\$250

South
Congregational
Church East
Hartford

\$1,000

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Advanced Benefits Strategies
- Joyce H. Allen
- Anne S. Alvord
- Maynard Bartram
- Sara Jackson Batchelder
- Kim Batterson-Bigelow
- Better Quality Management
- Marjorie N. Bishop
- Paul & Tina Bobbitt
- Chester Brodnicki
- Harold & Joyce Buckingham
- Roger Bunker
- Carolyn Brooks-Burton
- Jerry Cohen
- Ann Colloton and Rev. Matt Laney
- Robert A. Cushman
- Edwin M. Dahill
- Marjorie H. Davis
- Dr. Robert O. Decker
- Eugene & Diane DeJoannis
- DeManche McChristian, LLC
- Fred & Bebe Dudley
- John and Karen Dugan
- Phil Duke
- George Easton
- Steven C. Erickson
- Neal B. Freuden
- Lyle Fulton
- Shirley M. Fulton

- James Funderburk
- Kathleen P. Gourlie
- Robert D. Hafner
- Lois K. Happe
- HEDCO-NEDF
- Hoopes Morgenthaler Rausch & Scaramozza
- Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes
- K LA Rue Educational Art
- John & Donna Kidwell
- Philip Knecht
- David & Lois Kulas
- Gwen Lewis
- Charlotte Lueckel
- Cori & Megan Mackey
- Kathy Mackey
- Holly Matthews
- Hugh & Kathleen McLean
- George & Judith Merrick
- Michele Mudrick
- Daniel T. Mullen
- David Owens & David Mori
- James Nally
- Richard Pawlich-Pagliccio
- Kenneth Poppe
- Premier Accounting Group
- Renae Reese
- Peter Reynolds
- David Roozen
- Roberta Roy

- Geraldine Rozie
- James M. Scaramozza
- John & Janice Stevens
- Margaret D. Swaye
- Tracy-Driscoll
- Tyrone Walker
- David & Anne Weaver
- Emily Wolfe
- Douglas Wootten

FOUNDATION GRANTS

- J. Walton Bissell Foundation
- Fisher Foundation
- Long Foundation
- The Fund for Greater Hartford
- Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

As part of CAC's strategic planning and internal assessment CAC transitioned its council-based governance structure to a traditional board of directors.

This has provided more focused leadership and governance. One of the board's first accomplishments is the development of a three-year strategic plan for 2017–2020 where CAC set the following community priorities:



*Neighborhood
Organizing*

Leadership Development through Neighborhood Organizing for Social Justice

CAC's priority is to build resident leadership skills and to support leaders in asserting their collective power through organizing for social justice reforms in Hartford.



*Faith-based
Organizing*

Institution/Faith-Based Leadership Development and Social Justice Organizing

CAC's priority is to launch a faith-based organization that engages congregations and other institutions in organizing for social justice reforms in Greater Hartford.



*Youth
Development*

Youth Development Program

CAC is committed to reversing the trend of summer learning loss by operating a successful Freedom School in cooperation with Thirman Milner School in the North End of Hartford.



*Affordable
Housing*

Affordable Housing Program

CAC is committed to fulfilling our obligations under our current programs in the field of affordable housing and exploring other potential roles for us where we can add value to the community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Mark Diters
President

Gwendolyn Lewis
Vice President

George Merrick
Treasurer

Sara Batchelder
Secretary

Dr. David Roozen
Investment Sub-Committee Chair

Ann Colloton

Bebe Dudley

David Liscinsky

Nyandah Robinson

Tyrone Walker

David Weaver

Patricia Williams

LIFE MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Robert O. Decker

Douglas H. Wootten

URBAN SUBURBAN AFFORDABLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Stevens
President

Adrian Walton
Vice President

Althea Cordner

Michelle McFarland

Roberto Pena

Kathleen Service

STAFF

Cori Mackey
Executive Director

Michelle Roberts
Office Manager

Rev. Ashley (AJ) Johnson
Community Organizer

Pat Speer
Mentor Organizer

Stacey Lopez
*Adventures in the City Freedom
School Youth Program Director*



The Christian Activities Council is an urban mission organization founded in 1851. We are supported and sponsored by the congregations of the United Church of Christ in the 32-town Greater Hartford region.

OUR MISSION:

*Developing leaders who
act collectively for social
justice in Greater Hartford.*



*We are located in
The Mack Center*

47 Vine Street
Hartford, CT 06112

phone: 860.527.9860
fax: 860.727.9558