

# 2011 Annual Report

peace 💖 justice center

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October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011

## A Message from the Board of Directors

he fiscal year just completed (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011) has been eventful and challenging. Since February the Board of Directors has taken on the role of the Executive Director as a cost-saving measure. In March a community meeting was held to consider whether the Peace & Justice Center should continue as an independent entity, merge with an organization with similar purpose, or simply cease to operate. Those in attendance at the meeting felt strongly that the Center plays a unique and essential role in Vermont and should continue its independent existence.

We are grateful to our many loyal members for helping the organization carry on its important work in the face of sharply reduced funding. The Center maintained active programming and had a successful year with its Fair Trade retail activities while operating economically with a smaller staff. The hard work and great cooperation among staff, interns, volunteers, and Board members enabled us to end the financial year in the black. The

Peace & Justice Center is now positioned to carry out its mission with renewed focus and energy.

Our programming has continued to address a broad range of issues, from counter recruiting to racism, Livable Wages, Fair Trade, and other social and economic matters. We have collaborated with a number of other organizations on such issues as the No Lockheed campaign and Health Care as a Human Right. The Peace & Justice Center plays a vital role as fiscal agent for ten Allied Members—organizations with similar missions for whom we provide publicity, meeting space, and financial services.

women who are involved in Fair Trade as well as local artisans and producers who adhere to similar principles. They have also undertaken outreach in area schools, in the Church Street Marketplace, and elsewhere to spread the word about Fair Trade, particularly in the cocoa trade.

As we look forward to fiscal year 2012 the Board will be working on the foundation that has been laid this year to

enhance our capacity to carry out our Mission. Through a series of films and speakers, the Peace & Justice Center will present various views on the true cost in lost lives, shattered families, trauma, and opportunities lost when we invest in war. Increasing our staffing level so that we can strengthen our programming will be a major effort in the months to come. We will also be working hard to give our store the support it needs to spread its message of economic justice. We are counting on the support of our many members to help us achieve the goals of fiscal year 2012.

Our Mission is to create a just and peaceful world. To this end, we work on the interconnected issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights through education, advocacy, training and non-violent activism, and community organizing.

The mainstay of our financial support this year has been the Store, which helped the Center end our fiscal year with a modest surplus. Staff continues to merge Store activities with the Center's programming work. They have brought new focus to our support of ethnic minorities and Spence

Spencer Putnam for the Board of Directors

See the complete list of our activities on the second page of this report.

## peace @ justice center

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#### **STAFF**

#### Gabriela Ochoa Brennaman

Peace & Justice Store Manager & Program Director, 10/10-9/11

#### Wendy Coe

Office Manager, 2/11-9/11

#### Colleen Deignan

Program & Development Coordinator, 7-9/11

#### Jake Schumann

Assistant Store Manager, 9/11

#### Nancy Lynch

Executive Director, 10/10-1/11

#### Anna Guyton

Manager of Mission & Program, 10/10-6/11

#### Kristen Skager

Development Director, 10-12/10

#### **Heather Deal**

Assistant Store Manager, 1-9/11

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS '10-'11**

#### Linda Ayer

Small Business Owner of Just Desserts Bakery

#### Autumn Barnett - BOD chair

Program Manager, Domestic Abuse Education Program at Spectrum Youth & Family Services

#### Eric Hoke

Paralegal, Dunkiel Saunders Elliott Raubvogel & Hand

#### Marianne McCoy

Diversity Curriculum Specialist, Burlington School District

#### **Spence Putnam**

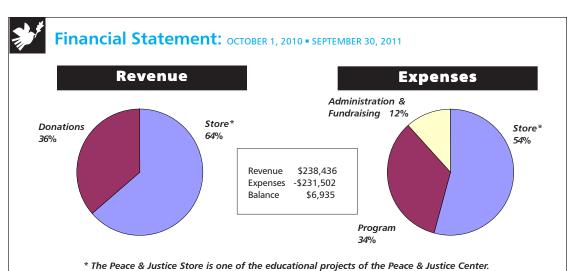
Adjunct professor, Green Mountain MBA in Sustainable Business Practices

#### Nathan Suter

Executive Director, Helen Day Arts Center, Stowe

Ed Everts - emeritus







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### Peace & Justice Center Highlights 2010-2011

#### ANTI-WAR/PEACE WORK

- Counter Recruiting at South Burlington High School (school year 2010-11).
- Organized rally on Church St. for Global Day of Action Against Military Spending, 4/12/11.
- Participated in a press conference about the death of Osama Bin Laden and advocated for a just judicial process. The press conference aired on CCTV on 5/8/2011.
- Worked with the No Lockheed group by petitioning, flyering, organizing, creating a short film, writing
  articles, and giving testimony in opposition of Burlington's partnership with Lockheed Martin, a weapons
  manufacturer and war profiteer.

#### **ECONOMIC JUSTICE & SOLIDARITY**

- Panel at Community College of Vermont about Livable Wages (Fall 2010).
- Peace, Justice, and the Economy presentation at UVM and CCV.
- Hosted Palmer Legare of Guatemala Solidarity Project. GSP works with indigenous groups who are being displaced by large corportions. 6/15/11.
- Organizing and writing for a Peace Economy.
- Rally with Vermont Workers Center for Health Care, 5/1/2011, Montpelier.
- Participated in the YWCA Stand Against Racism, 4/29/11.

#### **COMMUNITY BUILDING & EDUCATION**

- Public Meeting about the future of the PJC, 3/23/11.
- Hosted author events: Virginia Eubanks, 4/14/11; Bruce Levine, 5/4/11; Jeffrey Haas, 8/11/11.
- Organized an ongoing raffle with like-minded businesses to strengthen ties in the community.
- Supported 10 Allied Member groups with press releases, meeting space, calendar listings, enews articles.
- Produced 4 issues of Peace & Justice NEWS; 26 issues of our bi-weekly enews.

#### SUSTAINABILITY/FAIR TRADE

- Organized Earth Day Festival, 4/22/11, with six other organizations working on environmental initiatives.
- Organized World Fair Trade Day celebration on 5/14/11, Burlington City Hall Park.
- Presentations on Fair Trade and sustainability and their impact on artisans and farmers we work with.
- Designed and launched a Cocoa Campaign to serve as a nationwide model to stop the trafficking and Forced Child Labor in the cocoa industry.
- Provided opportunities for college interns to research, write and network for the Cocoa Campaign.
- Tabled on Church Street and delivered at least 10 presentations in colleges and highs schools for the Cocoa Campaign.
- Partnered with local organizations like the Adult Lease of the provide meaningful volunteering opportunities for individuals in the community in research and provide meaningful volunteering opportunities.