

# 2012 Annual Report

peace 🕸 justice center

October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

research • policy • action

# A Message from the Board of Directors

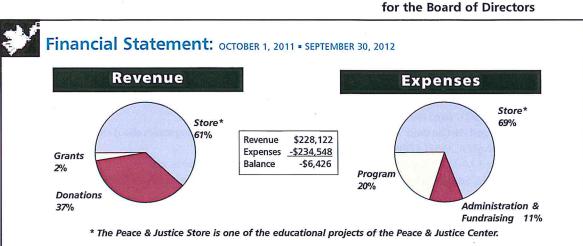
ver the past fiscal year (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012) the Peace and Justice Center has experienced renewed growth and vitality. The Board of Directors has continued to assume the responsibilities of the Executive Director as a cost-saving measure. However, we are excited to announce that, at year's end, we added the equivalent of a \(^3\)4 position in programming. This will enable us to build on and expand the success of the "Cost of War" film and speaker series and other programming, and it is already bringing us greater success in obtaining grant funding. Just one example of the Center's activities over the past year was the key role we played in the passing of the resolution in the State of Vermont against the Citizen's United ruling. This is reminiscent of the Center's central role in the 1981 Vermont Nuclear Freeze campaign. See the complete list of our programming activities on the second page of this report.

We have also restructured the responsibilities of the Store Manager in order to continue to strengthen the programmatic relationship between the mission of the Center and store merchandizing, specifically its Fair Trade retail activities. We continue to rely on many volunteers and interns in both retail and programming activities. The hard work and great cooperation among staff, interns, volunteers, and Board members enabled us to end the financial year in a more secure position than we began it. The Peace & Justice Center is now positioned to carry out its mission with renewed focus and energy.

The Board looks forward to fiscal year 2013 as an opportunity to expand the reach and breadth of our Mission. Increasing our staffing level and adding to our Board will

be major goals in the months to come. We will also be working hard to give our store the support it needs to continue spreading its Fair Trade, organic, and local production message, within the store and throughout the community. We are counting on the support of our many members to help us achieve the goals of fiscal vear 2013.

Spencer Putnam



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.

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#### STAFF

Gabriela Ochoa Brennaman Peace & Justice Store Manager & Program Director

Wendy Coe Office Manager

Colleen Deignan Program & Development Coordinator

Jake Schumann Assist Store Manager, 10/11-7/12

**Kyle Silliman-Smith** Assist Store Manager, 8-9/12

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS '11-'12**

#### Linda Ayer

Small Business Owner of Just Desserts Bakery

## Autumn Barnett - BOD chair

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

### **Spence Putnam**

Adjunct professor, Green Mountain MBA in Sustainable **Business Practices** 

#### **Nathan Suter**

Executive Director, Helen Day Arts Center, Stowe

Ed Everts - emeritus

#### **VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS**

The PJC averaged 15 to 20 volunteers and interns per month. Some 65 different people over the year. More than 5,500 volunteer hours! We couldn't do this work with out you! Thank you!





# Peace & Justice Center Highlights Oct. 2011- Sept. 2012

#### ECONOMIC JUSTICE/FAIR TRADE

- Screened the Dark Side of Chocolate 2/13, 4/2 & 4/4 at St. Michael's College, Champlain College, and UVM.
- Tabled several times at UVM and on Church Street.
- From October 2011 to May 2012: 21 presentations about Fair Trade, Child Trafficking and forced child labor at elementary, middle and high schools, colleges, faith communities, public forums, and conferences. A few examples:
- 11/9 presentation on Child Trafficking and forced child labor to UVM Prof. Rob Gordon's class
- 12/14 Presentation to VT Migrant Justice. How FT creates jobs that keep people from migrating; how it has an impact on their lives.
- 2/10 Presentation "What is the Impact of Fair Trade?" Champlain College
- 2/18 Workshop at St. Michael's College: "Fair Trade For Social Justice"
- 4/3 Introduction to Fair Trade at Champlain Elementary School, Burlington
- 5/12 World Fair Trade Day Festival in Burlington City Hall Park
- 7/19-8/9 Fair Trade Children's Series: weekly activities for kids based around fair trade principles
- 9/29 Vermont's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fair Trade Business Forum: Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate! With Burlington Fair Trade Network

## ANTI-WAR/PEACE WORK/COST OF WAR SERIES

- The Cost of War Series was done in partnership with Vets for Peace and the Block Foundation
- 1/22 PJC showed a film at the Roxy: Hell and Back Again
- 2/11 PJC brought National Priorities Project's Jo Comerford: The Dollars and Sense of War Spending.
- 3/25 PJC showed the film, Restrepo at Burlington City Hall, with a discussion led by Iraq War Vet, Jon Turner.
- 4/17 Global Day of Action Against Military Spending. Tax Day Protest outside of the Burlington Post Office.
- 4/20 Rumors of War: Iran. Panel with Barrie Dunsmore, Sarwar Kashmeri, Greg Gause, and Misagh Parsa. Moderated by Nathan Suter. At Burlington City Hall.
- 4/25 PJC and UVM Voices for Planned Parenthood showed the film The Invisible War at UVM
- 5/13 PJC brought author Helen Benedict to speak at the First UU Society. Women on the Front Line: War, Trauma, and Remorse. (Author of Sand Queen and the Lonely Soldier)
- 8/2 Songs for Hope Concert: a celebration of activism, protest, and hope for the future, in memory of those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki followed by candleboat vigil on Lake Champlain
- 9/21 PJC presented at Peace One Day at Vergennes Union High School
- 9/22 PJC presented Bill McKibben: War and the Environment: the Fight We Should Really Be Fighting as part of the Burlington Book Festival.

#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

- PJC was the beneficiary of the City Market's Change for Local Non-Profits in Dec. 2011. \$1,043!
- We tabled at PJC fundraisers held at Nectar's and Drink.
- PJC Supported Occupy Burlington. PJC staff on several committees. Meetings held at PJC.
- 10/26 Palmer Legare speaks about Solidarity Project in Guatemala at PJC
- 12/4 Strategic planning meeting to start Vermonters Say Corporations Are Not People.. Metat PJC Members of PJC, WILPF, VBSR, VPIRG, Occupy Wall St. are involved.
- 12/15 Kick off public event for Vermonters Say Corporations Are Not People at Main Street Landing
- 1/10 Tenth Anniversary of Guantanamo. Demonstration, street theater and march. Burlington.
- 1/20 Corporations Are Not People. Burlington demonstration. Rally at the statehouse in Montpelier.
- 1/21 Corporations Are Not People panel at City Hall Burlington organized by PJC Panelists: Jerry Greenfield, Ben & Jerry's founder, VT Senator Ginny Lyons, Dan Barrett, ACLU, and Aquene Freechild, Public Citizen
- 1/27 PJC on Richard Kemp's CH 17 TV show.
- 2/27 Sponsored panel "Are Corporations People" at St. Michael's College.
- 3/30 and 9/21 Jared Paul Poetry Slam: poet, activist and performer. At PJC.
- June-August We Can Work Together tabled at PJC and on Church St, collecting stories about race. WCWT is a coalition of PJC, WILPF, CORN and Reading to End Racism.
- 8/21 Social Media for Social Justice: Webskillet and the PJC, aworkshop for online tools
- The Peace & Justice Store is a job training site for the VT Dept. for Children and Families's Reach Up program.

## **ALLIED MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

The PJC provides resources to several activist groups.: fiscal sponsorship, meeting space and media outreach are the most commonly used.