



BUILDING ON COMMON GROUND

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN HAS MUCH TO OFFER—AND MUCH TO FIX.

We have a health care crisis, there aren't enough jobs and crime is out of hand. We created Common Ground to address these critical social issues. Our members come from all races, religions and political backgrounds, but we share a common mission: To replace despair with hope in our community.

**“We want to do something to change the world.
The way you start is by talking to people.”**

—Bob Connolly, President of Common Ground



Rev. Bobby Sinclair and other Common Ground leaders addressed the Common Council on October 20, 2008, seeking increased funding for summer jobs for youth.

ISSUE CAMPAIGNS, CONTACTS & CURRENT NEWS

Common Ground Issue Teams are now continuing these issue campaigns:

YOUTH SUMMER JOBS

On Friday, November 7, 30 Common Ground leaders concluded their efforts to increase the City of Milwaukee's investment in Summer Youth Jobs. Over two months, more than 350 Common Ground leaders attended meetings with Common Council members or open budget hearings. The biggest of these efforts occurred on September 24 when over 250 leaders attended the Budget Hearing of the Mayor and Common Council. On November 7, the Common Council voted 13-1 to invest \$250,000 in youth summer jobs.

Leaders to Contact:

- Denise Fried: 414-333-0709
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- Debra Schneider: 414-550-2167
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- Paul Hull:
Email mmpci@hotmail.com

CRIME & GRIME

On Sunday, October 12, more than 100 Marquette students and volunteers hit the streets of Milwaukee at the Marquette for Common Ground Neighborhood Walk in a mass effort to promote community awareness. The group split into pairs and hit the streets, each pair having a goal to engage in conversation with ten or fifteen residents or people on the streets to gain their insight. Twenty-nine certified registrar volunteers walked along and registered 175 voters.

Leader to Contact:

- Amani Neighborhood —
Rev. Willie Davis: 414-431-6420
Email wjdavis@gnbinfo.org
- Sherman Park — Mark Peters: 414-963-0779
Email petersm6250@sbcglobal.net

HEALTH CARE

Common Ground Health Care Reform Committee is engaged in a campaign to make health insurance more accessible and affordable for those who are self employed or work for small businesses or non-profit organizations. Common Ground is conducting Information/Listening Sessions throughout the region to discuss the idea of a Health Insurance Cooperative.

Leaders to Contact:

- Bob Connolly: 414-272-0101
Email bconnolly@jamescompany.com
- Theresa Tobin: 414-758-1578
Email terrywywy@hotmail.com

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Village Board of Grafton is working with Habitat for Humanity and Common Ground leaders to develop a plan for affordable housing units in Grafton. Over the last two months, Common Ground leaders conducted a signature campaign resulting in 400 people supporting this effort. On Monday, November 3, 46 people attended the Village Board meeting to ask that the Board reconsider this project. That evening, the Village Board, after deciding two years ago not to allow Habitat to build on this one-acre parcel of land, directed the Village's Director of Planning to work with Habitat to create a new development plan. This is an outstanding first step in this campaign.

Leader to Contact:

- Candy Shoop: 262-853-5549
Email: casucc250@yahoo.com

DELEGATES ASSEMBLY/ PUBLIC ACTION

On March 19, 2009, at Mount Mary College delegates from member organizations will gather at 7:00 pm in Bergstrom Hall for a Public Action related to the Youth Jobs and other Issue Campaigns. Delegates at this Assembly will also elect the Strategy Team.

GOALS FOR 2009

1. Finish current Issue Campaigns
2. Form 20 to 25 Core Teams
3. Continue to grow the organization



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You look like someone who's ready to make a difference.

Common Ground is an organization of organizations. Our members are congregations, businesses, religious groups, unions, schools, non-profits, neighborhood associations and civic groups.

If you're interested in supporting or joining Common Ground, please contact us.

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Transforming lives.
Strengthening communities.

**FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT:**
www.commongroundwi.org

