



# BUILDING ON COMMON GROUND

TRANSFORMING LIVES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bayview United Methodist Church  
 Bethel Temple COGIC  
 Canaan Baptist Church  
 Catholics for Peace and Justice  
 Community Baptist Church  
 Congregation Beth Jehudah  
 Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne  
 Jeshurun  
 Congregation of Sisters of  
 St Agnes  
 Core El Centro  
 Corinth Baptist Church  
 Daughters of Charity  
 Gesu Parish  
 Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
 Hanson Dodge Creative  
 Hopewell Baptist Church  
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
 Invisible Reality Ministry  
 Islamic Society of Milwaukee  
 Marquette University  
 for Common Ground  
 Mt Calvary Church LCMS  
 Mt Hermon Baptist Church  
 Mt Horeb Baptist Church  
 Mount Mary College  
 North Shore United Educators  
 OK Organization  
 Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
 Progressive Baptist Church  
 St Anthony on the Lake  
 St Catherine Congregation  
 St Francis Cabrini Parish  
 St James Episcopal Church  
 St Luke's Lutheran Church  
 St Mark's Episcopal Church  
 St Martin of Tours Parish  
 St Michael Parish  
 St Paul Episcopal Church  
 Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church  
 Transformation City Church  
 Uniting Garden Homes, Inc.  
 UU's United for Social Justice  
 Unitarian Universalist  
 Church West  
 Village Church  
 Wauwatosa Presbyterian  
 WI Nurses and Health  
 Professionals

## • TEAM MEETINGS

### • EDUCATION

Date: Thursday, September 15  
 Time: 6:30 pm  
 Place: Shiloh Baptist  
 4801 West Capitol Drive  
 Parking: in rear  
 Childcare available\*

EDU Briefing: Please join us at 6pm  
 prior to the Education Team meeting  
 to ask questions and get updates  
 from EDU team leaders.

### • FORECLOSURES (Milwaukee Rising)

Date: Thursday, September 1  
 Time: 7 pm  
 Place: St. Catherine's  
 51st and Center

### • HEALTHCARE

Date: Thursday, September 8  
 Time: 7 pm  
 Place: St. Mark Episcopal  
 2618 N. Hackett

*\*Reserved childcare available with your  
 RSVP —\$5 for two kids, additional \$3  
 for more children. RSVP to Julie Lange.*

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Common Ground is an organization of organizations. Our members are congregations, businesses, religious groups, unions, schools, non-profits, neighborhood associations and civic groups. As a member organization, you have access to the time of the Common Ground staff to discuss issues that are of concern to your members. If you're interested in supporting or joining Common Ground, please contact us.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



**Keisha Krumm**, Lead Organizer  
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**Julie Lange**, Administrative Organizer  
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## OTHER SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### MILWAUKEE RISING OPEN HOUSE

Date: Sunday, September 10  
 Time: NOON—3 pm  
 Place: 2425 N. 46th Street

### LET'S GET EDUCATED ABOUT EDUCATION SERIES

Topic: Great Schools  
 Date: Tuesday, September 27  
 Time: 6:30—8 pm  
 Place: TBD  
 Childcare available\*

### FUTURE EVENT—SAVE THE DATE !!! FALL DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

Date: Tuesday, October 4  
 Time: 7—8:30 pm  
 Place: Mt. Mary College  
 Helfaer Hall  
 Parking: in the east parking lot  
 off of N. 92nd Street  
 (between Center & Burleigh)  
 Childcare available\*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome new member UUCW  
 Healthcare Cooperative update  
 Ongoing "Milwaukee Rising" success



**INTRODUCTION**

This is the inaugural issue of what we hope/plan will be a monthly newsletter. Our aim is to reduce the volume of e-mail you receive, while at the same time increasing the amount of information we provide to you. Please let us know what you think of this effort, how it can be improved, and if it will be of value to you. Your involvement with Common Ground is important to us, and we want to be respectful of your time and attention. Contact Sharon DePue at RDePue@aol.com with your feedback, both good and not-so-good.

**EDUCATION**

Who would have thought, when Common Ground turned its sights to Wisconsin's crisis in education (*and I don't use the word crisis lightly*), that those who would become the most avid and informed students of the issues would be the CG Education Team. This team has organized themselves into five sub-research teams in the areas of Early Learning, After School Programming, School Funding/State Constitution, Vocational Education, and Teaching Skills. An offshoot group is looking at the extension of the sales tax, now dedicated to the construction of Miller Park and due to expire in 2016-18. As you may have heard, there have been trial balloons floated suggesting that an extension could be dedicated to new construction for the Milwaukee Bucks. Is that the most pressing need in this community? CG will seek to represent the public interest in the decision making.

Check out the front of this newsletter for important information regarding upcoming Education meetings, or get in touch with Keisha Krumm or Julie Lange.

**MILWAUKEE RISING**

Persistence and consistency are the watchwords of the Foreclosure campaign which has now evolved into a two-pronged effort—continuing negotiations with the banks to add to the more than \$25.6 million already committed for the rehabilitation effort by Wells Fargo, Deutsche Bank, Bank of America and US Bank, and implementation of **Milwaukee Rising** to rehabilitate, restore, and sell to responsible owners over 100 abandoned homes in the Sherman Park Community.



*Toni Wagner and Frank Finch III being interviewed by Fox Business News regarding our Milwaukee Rising campaign in front of 2350 N. 46th Street that sold in 10 days!*

Restoration of 2 homes is complete, and one of them is already sold! The plan now is to move outward, rehabbing homes and revitalizing the neighborhood block by block. This is where persistence is especially important. Revitalization of a neighborhood will not happen overnight, but MR will not go away. CG has committed its resources to the employment of Kathleen Scott, Associate Organizer, who is engaged full-time in making MR a success. She invites you to join one of MR's three new subcommittees— Home Evaluation, Mortgages, and Marketing to lend your support to this long-term effort.

**NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Larry Krolikowski believed that his church, **Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)** was a perfect fit with Common Ground. UUCW has a fifty year history of expressing its UU social justice values through a wide range



of social justice activism. So more than a year ago Larry set about raising the CG consciousness of his congregation by displaying posters of abandoned homes CG hoped to rehabilitate in the church's common room, recruiting members to attend Common Ground University and

CG actions, and meeting with the church's Board of Trustees. The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, minister at UUCW, guided Larry throughout the process.

A pivotal moment occurred when an active member of the Industrial Areas Foundation, CG's parent organization, who is also a UU minister in Washington, D.C., traveled to Milwaukee to speak to more than 80 members and friends at UUCW about the value of community-based organizing as practiced by the IAF.

Now we know that no one effort can be pointed to as sealing the deal, but sealed it was in the spring of 2011 when the UUCW congregation, at its annual meeting, voted to become the newest member of CG. *We're glad to have your energy, experience and enthusiasm, UUCW!*

**HEALTHCARE**



Audacious is, at the moment, my favorite word. For me, it aptly describes the **Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative**

which was voted into existence on August 8 by its Formative Board. The Cooperative's incorporation addresses the need for a viable non-profit member controlled insurance company in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Federal Affordable Care Act calls for the establishment by 2014 of insurance exchanges in each state, one of the members of which is required to be a non-profit insurance company. Currently, there is no other in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Now the harder work begins and that, of course, is the establishment on a solid foundation of such a member-controlled company. \$3.8 billion in federal loan funds have been allocated to assist in the formation of these companies, and the CG Healthcare Cooperative is preparing an application for a federal grant, guided in the preparation by a 19-member Board of veterans of the health care jungles. Audacious? — bold, daring, fearless — I think so.

Want to learn more? You can contact the CG Healthcare Cooperative through its coordinators: Bob Connolly, President, at [bconnolly@jamescompany.com](mailto:bconnolly@jamescompany.com), or Jim Wesp, Vice President, at [jim@kmhardwoods.com](mailto:jim@kmhardwoods.com).

