

Engage, Organize, Mobilize.



2017 Annual Report

midsouthpeace.org

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Homeless Organizing for Power and Equality (H.O.P.E.)

H.O.P.E. is a program area of MSPJC. Its membership is made up exclusively of people who have formerly experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness, and organizes to increase city and county funding for vital homeless services, as well as to influence the creation of new affordable housing units; create opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to generate income without being exploited; develop grassroots organizing skills among people experiencing homelessness while providing supportive networking and resources so that they may successfully self-advocate and engage in all parts of community life; and create specific spaces where

people experiencing homelessness can provide emotional support to one another.

2017 Highlights

- Published and distributed thousands of updated Memphis Homeless Survival Guides, the city's first and only user friendly directory of existing homeless services.
- Partnered with Cooperative Memphis to form a food justice recovery team to collect leftover food from the University of Memphis Hospitality School and channel it to First Congregational Church, who feeds 50-100 people weekly who are low-income and/or experiencing homelessness.
- Recruited HOPE members, as well as 20 volunteers, to participate in Project Homeless Connect 2017, an annual event which provides access to: clothing, hygiene products, dental, medical, social, and housing services, as well as meals to those experiencing homelessness.
- Partnered with Cooperative Memphis to start the Co-op House, a donated house that will provide office space, and resources, like computers to look for jobs, food, clothing, and other necessities.
- Started the First Annual Give Hope fundraiser for HOPE.
- Erected a temporary Tent City to bring awareness to the lack of free shelters and services for people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ people, and individuals with disabilities in Memphis.



StreetWise INK is Memphis' only screen printing cooperative business venture organized and operated exclusively by individuals with experiences of homelessness. StreetWise INK members craft high-quality, custom, screen printed shirts for a variety of needs. StreetWise INK is unique in that it has been worker-led from its inception, starting as a subgroup of H.O.P.E. StreetWise INK is work-

ing to develop hard and soft business skills and create steady and meaningful work with sustainable income for members, while learning to put real democracy and people over profit into effect amongst members and the community at large.

2017 Highlights

- Researched a number of possible business models and decided to pursue incorporation as an LLC.
- Updated Bylaws and Business Plan.
- Developed Digital Price Quote Request Form, Operating Agreement, Conflict Resolution with Agreement to Mediate Policy, Peer Review Policy, Operations Manual, Screen Printing Training Manual, Job Log Forms, Inventory Tracking System, Shop Use Checklist, Equipment/Materials Use Manual, Point System, & Price Quote Generator.
- Procured assistance of 5 New Memphis Institute Fellows--including a lawyer, accountant, marketing specialist, business owner, and an executive director of a 501c3--who worked with StreetWise INK to develop a Community Action Plan for the purpose of giving expert advice in furthering the goals of StreetWise INK.



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- Facilitated free trainings via Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, in which 10 people with experiences of homelessness gained screen printing skills.
- Facilitated donation-based trainings for several out of state university groups.
- After researching possible solutions to stencil problems, StreetWise INK realized a need for a dehumidifier, which was purchased with a donation from a New Memphis Fellow.
- Received large donation of unused ink from a local screen printing business.
- Solved emulsion exposure problem and are now able to produce finer detailed artwork stencils on a consistent basis.
- Reconfigured 4 color press alignment to enable ability to print in multi-color.
- Initiated outreach for Advisory Board members to assist StreetWise INK in the process of incorporating and to help set a plan for StreetWise INK's first year of doing business as a standalone entity.
- Conducted outreach for solidarity partner organizations focusing on economic justice.

Klondike-Smokey City Neighborhood Council

MSPJC is working in the Klondike Smokey City neighborhood in collaboration with organizations like Communities in Schools TN, Family Safety Center, Agape Child & Family Services, and Seeding Success to make sure all children are on track to graduate from high school college or career ready. Many children face considerable barriers that keep them from learning. MSPJC's role in this project is to head efforts for the recruitment and engagement of Klondike-Smokey City community members and stakeholders to form a Neighborhood Council to identify priorities and drive these efforts.

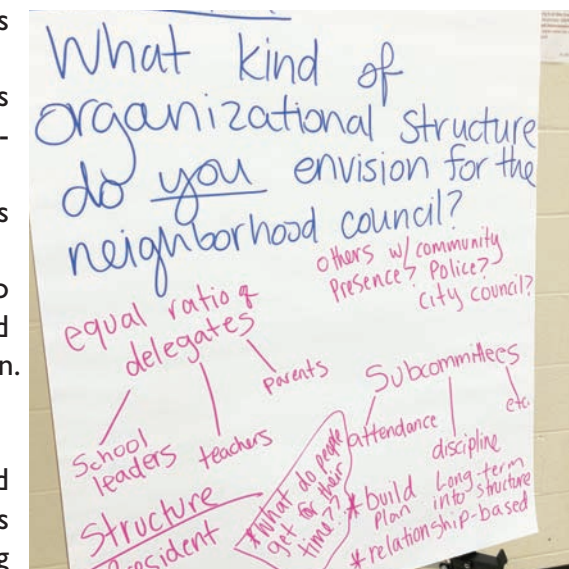
2017 Highlights

- Collaborated with KSCCDC, parents, students, neighborhood residents, school representatives from Caldwell-Guthrie, Humes, Manassas, and Perea, business leaders, local community organizations, and faith-based leaders to identify and address barriers that keep children from getting to school prepared and ready to learn.
- Held neighborhood meetings to engage and inform the KSC neighborhood about the Whole Child Strategy and its benefits in the community.
- Created a Recruitment Plan strategically targeting parents of students who have chronic absences, behavior issues and poor course performance to assist them with getting their child on track for graduation.
- Provided resources that address families immediate needs, such as counseling, housing, and advocacy.
- Used social media streaming as an alternative method of engagement to meet the needs of people who were unable to attend neighborhood meetings in person, which allowed them to participate in the discussion.



Outreach

- Distributed flyers to North Memphis schools, inviting parents and students to Neighborhood meetings and passed out meeting reminders to parents and students during dismissal one week before the meeting date.
- Created social media presence to reach more neighborhood residents and stakeholders, especially Manassas High School students.
- Set up pop-up stations at schools during peak times of early checkout and during honors, holiday, and other special programs, parent events, progress reports and report card pick up days and sports events.



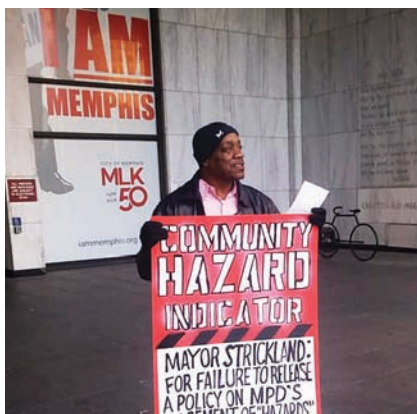


Memphis United

Memphis United began in February of 2013, as a coalition of grassroots organizations, community groups, and Memphis residents formed to confront structural and institutional racism when the KKK announced plans for a Memphis Rally. Since then, the group has refocused its mission to encompass a slew of issues under the banner of criminal justice reform and won victories like the re-establishment of Memphis' Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB).

2017 Highlights

- Promoted, attended, observed, and reported on outcomes from monthly meetings of CLERB.
- Worked with individuals appealing their internal affairs complaints with CLERB to help them understand and navigate the complaint process.
- Published Memphis' only primer explaining the process for filing complaints against Memphis Police Officers.
- Exposed Memphis Police practice of placing "Hazard Indicators" on individuals homes without their knowledge, and launched campaign to get the City to release a policy defining the practice.
- Documented police activities and arrests during January's demonstration by Water Protectors at the Valero Refinery to stop the Diamond Pipeline.



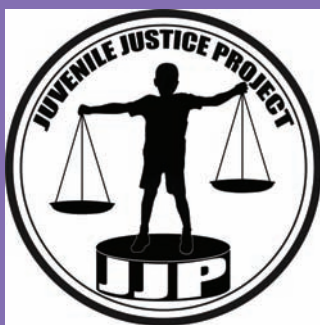
- Collaborated with Shelby County Juvenile Court to connect over 50 youth to service opportunities in their own neighborhoods.
- Partnered with People for the Enforcement of Rape Laws (PERL) and the MSPJC training department to develop a workshop covering consent, trauma, and sexual assault.
- Organized the first in a series of meetings with community service partners in an effort to work with youth to develop strategies for addressing issues in the Hickory Hill community through community service initiatives.
- Printed 5,000 Know Your Rights handbooks that will be distributed throughout the community at conferences and workshops.



People for the Enforcement of Rape Laws (PERL) is a grassroots organization led by people who have experienced sexual violence organizing to improve police response to these crimes and hold law enforcement accountable.

2017 Highlights

- Engaged 33 people as peer advocates at 24 peer support group meetings, the only such group in Memphis.
- Engaged 55 people at 12 public monthly meetings, giving updates on PERLs work and avenues for volunteer involvement.
- Developed a one hour experiential learning workshop, Understanding Sexual Assault, Consent, and Trauma, through which we connected with 50 high school students.
- Presented a four-hour course on Activist Public Relations 101, taught by University of Memphis communications professors, Drs. Stephanie Madden and Melissa Janoske.
- Fifteen people gained a deeper understanding of the basic concepts of public relations, how public relations can help activist causes, and the fundamentals of press release and op-ed writing.
- Trained 21 abortion doulas on sexual assault, trauma, and how to accommodate the needs of patients who have experienced trauma.
- Offered guidance and support on the strategic planning board of Memphis Against Sexual Harassment and Assault (MASHA), a youth-led cohort through BRIDGES, USA.
- Collaborated with other organizations for criminal justice reforms, including OUTMemphis' HIV decriminalization workgroup.
- Worked with Families Against Mandatory Minimums to create messaging around reforming Tennessee's drug-free school zone law, a criminal justice system overreach that further diverts resources away from the enforcement of laws against violent crime.
- Began forming a West Tennessee coalition of people who are engaged on issues of key criminal justice reform like civil asset forfeiture and HIV criminalization.
- Assisted a rape survivor in filing an Internal Affairs complaint against two officers for mishandling her rape case, and documented the process.
- Advocated for greater transparency in sexual assault policing. Needed reforms: the restoration of sexual assault to CyberWatch and Civilian oversight.



The Juvenile Justice Project is working with Juvenile Court to build networks of churches and organizations to address our high number of youth offenders and the lack of opportunities for court ordered community service, specifically in the areas of Hickory Hill & Bartlett. Studies continue to show that punitive consequences often perpetuate future contact with the justice system, as opposed to more rehabilitative and transformative opportunities. We believe that youth are the solution, not the problem. We work to help young people find their place in their communities through transformative service opportunities.

2017 Highlights

- Educated over 800 youth across Memphis about their constitutional rights and skills for encounters with law enforcement through interactive Know Your Rights Theatre workshops.
- Conducted 19 KYR workshops at Capleville United Methodist Church, New Sardis Baptist Church, Juvenile Justice Project Youth Conference, MLK50 Youth Convening, and seven middle and high schools.
- Fostered partnerships with 27 different organizations in Hickory Hill dedicated to providing meaningful, mentorship based service opportunities for youth in the area with court ordered community service.
- Hosted the first JJP Youth Conference at Belle Forest Community School, attended by over 150 youth, parents, community leaders, and elected officials.
- Engaged youth and adults in workshops on youth centering; Know Your Rights; non-violent conflict resolution; immigration advocacy; sexual assault, consent, and trauma; and grassroots organizing skills. We had guest speakers discuss topics such as entrepreneurship as well as activism and self-care through art.



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Memphis Bus Riders Union (MBRU)

MBRU is comprised of people dependent on public transportation and their supporters who organize to improve transit services for all Memphians. In Memphis, 90% of bus riders are African-American, primarily women; and 60% have annual incomes of \$18,000 or less. Therefore, cuts to bus service disproportionately affect low-income residents and communities of color, as well as people with disabilities, students, and the elderly. MBRU seeks to restore bus service to underserved communities, and increase the number of buses in the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) fleet to decrease wait times and potentially dangerous bus overcrowding.

2017 Highlights

- Presented over 2,100 signatures to Memphis City Council and Mayor Jim Strickland in support of the 31 Crosstown, a vital bus route for underserved neighborhoods in North and South Memphis that was cut by MATA in 2013.
- Restored bus service to the New Chicago neighborhood through the 31 Firestone pilot route, which connects residential areas in North Memphis to Midtown and the Medical District.
- Hosted a celebratory block party in New Chicago for the 31 campaign. Over 100 Memphis residents attended, including community stakeholders like United Campus Workers, The Official Black Lives Matter Memphis Chapter, and the Shelby County Election Commission.
- Members and organizers received local and national media coverage through the Wall Street Journal, Labor Notes, The Memphis Flyer, Memphis Daily News, Local Memphis 24, and English- and Spanish-language radio stations.
- Featured in a short film by Robert Rowan titled "Get Off the Bus," which profiled MBRU co-chair Cynthia Bailey and the 31 campaign. It debuted at the Indie Memphis film festival.
- Did outreach at bus stops and door-knocking with student groups from Rhodes College and Purdue University. Members also spoke to students at Rhodes and GRAD Academy Memphis about our work.
- Participated in Memphis 3.0's Transit Vision process, aimed at forming a long-term development plan for MATA. The Transit Vision is a collaboration between Memphis 3.0, MATA, and the City of Memphis.
- Supported the Memphis March for Science, which aimed to promote the intersections of social justice and the scientific community, and Fight For \$15's National Day of Protest.
- Celebrated 5 years of fighting for transit justice!



Grassroots Organizer Training for Power is committed to building our community's capacity through building skills in grassroots organizing, providing support to people doing community work and offering anti-oppression and liberation education.

Our method: **Direct Education** means education that directly confronts and challenges the current system of injustice, which includes traditional education. **Direct Education** invites the expertise of the people themselves, it's about liberation and empowerment -- going to the direct source of wisdom: the community itself!

2017 Highlights

- Total workshops and trainings last year, 12.
- People attending from TN and other states, 226.
- Total scholarships granted last year, 131.
- Workshops and trainings offered: Privilege & Oppressions Awareness; Diversity Awareness Workshop; Diversity, Power and Rank Workshop; Facilitation Skills Workshop; Exploring Roles of Social Change for youth; Marshall Skills Training; and Community Organizing Skills Training; This workshop consisted of 14 hours of training in foundational skills needed for effective organizing and was presented twice, one on spring and another in the fall.
- G.O.T. Power training team grew with two more facilitators.
- Facilitators have been trained on Whites Confronting Racism; Deep Democracy: Facilitator Tools for Navigating Conflict; Training for Social Action Trainers of Color; Partners in Prevention: Reducing Teen and Unintended Pregnancies in Shelby County; and Creative Workshop Design.
- Supported PERL (People for the Enforcement of Rape Laws) creating a one hour experiential learning workshop: Understanding Sexual Assault, Consent, and Trauma.
- Launched a survey to better understand the experiences and training needs of our community and attendees to improve our work and workshops offered.



G.O.T. Power offers trainings to the public and groups with specific training requests. It is an open resource to the community. Trainings and workshops are offered on a deeply discounted sliding scale.

Its activities explore ways to be better allies through raising awareness and equipping organizers, facilitators, activists, workers, and volunteers with the tools to do their part. G.O.T. Power connects and collaborates with a diverse group of partners: 2017 includes Wake Forest University; Full Spectrum Doulas; CHOICES (Center for Reproductive Health); Healthy and Free TN; Levitt Shell; Juvenile Justice Project; Rhodes College; Community LIFT; and Purdue University.





Mid-South Peace and Justice Center is a multi-issue, multi-race organization whose mission is to engage, organize, and mobilize communities to realize social justice through nonviolent action.

Our Values

The Inherent Power of the Individual-We know the people we work with hold the power to initiate and advance positive change in their communities, and it's these people who must be the leaders in campaigns to improve their lives.

Communities of Liberation-We work to create a world without oppression. We recognize that the roots of oppression run deep systemically and within ourselves. We implement strategies of anti-oppression within every facet of our organizing and within our organization itself.

Achieving Nonviolent Solutions Using Nonviolent Strategy-MSPJC was founded on the nonviolent principles of Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. We know that the most powerful change can only be brought about using nonviolent means, and we are dedicated to practicing and teaching nonviolent action.

A Word of Thanks

We are extremely grateful to all of our members, volunteers, community partners, donors, and other supporters and collaborators, without whom we would not be able to operate, grow in our work, or accomplish as much as we do. **Thank you!**

STAFF

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