**9 to 5, National Association of Working Women**

*Susan Berryman-Rodriguez, Valerie Thelen*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** 9to5's mission is to build a movement to achieve economic justice by engaging directly affected women to improve working conditions. 9to5 envisions an economically just world where poverty and discrimination have been eliminated, the contributions of women are recognized, and women and their families thrive. Friday, April 13, 2012

***Version 1:*** Imagine getting fired from your job for calling in sick. Or working as waitress, and sometimes not earning enough money to put food on the table. Imagine earning 10,000 less than a male co-worker just because you are a woman. For three women – Stacey, Ivonne and Amy, this was their reality. Even though women make 49 percent of the workforce, we are struggling to make ends meet and it’s harder than ever to support and care for our families. But it doesn't have to be that way because 9to5 is winning justice for working women. Founded in 1973, 9to5 is one of the largest member-driven organizations of working women. Over the past 40 years, 9to5 has helped pass laws to protect women from discrimination and get paid more for their work so they can actually have time to spend time with their families. 9to5 is leading the fight to improve working conditions – so that all women thrive in a fair, safe and equal workplace.

***Final:*** Every day, I meet women who work, sometimines more than 2 jobs, take care of their kids, and are superheros in their communities. Every year, these same hardworking women are still earning less than men, being shortchanged an average of $10,000 a year – that could pay more than a year's worth of rent. Pushing for equal pay is just one of many workplace issues 9to5 has been fighting for since 1973.   As one of the largest, most respected national membership organizations of working women in the U.S, we are empowering women to bring about real change. And we’ve made a lot of progress since the move “9to5” came out, that was based on our group.  But now in 2012, many of us are still struggling to make ends meet.  We need you to join with us to help advance women and strengthen families  -- because together, we can build a better future for all.

**Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI)**

*Susan Duerksen, Quynh Nguyen, Crystal Page*

***In Your Own Words (from org website****):* The Center on Policy Initiatives is a nonprofit research and advocacy center dedicated to the interests of working people in the San Diego region. Through research, community organizing and public education, we seek policy changes that promote economic justice and strengthen the middle class. CPI works to end working poverty by building a fair economy in which good jobs with healthcare coverage allow all working people to live with dignity. We help strengthen communities through responsible development, affordable housing, child care, reliable public transportation, parks and other shared benefits.

***Version 1:*** The Center on Policy Initiatives is a nonprofit research and advocacy center dedicated to economic equity for working people and diverse, low-income communities in the San Diego region. We develop and promote policies on the local level that increase access to good jobs and quality healthcare and improve conditions for low-wage workers. Ultimately, our goals are to make sure the underserved have equitable opportunities, local government puts the public good ahead of private interests, and workers have a voice in dealing with their corporate employers.

***Final:*** CPI is a nonprofit in San Diego. We do research and advocate for ways local govt can help create decent jobs and a decent life for working people. Many industries in SD, like hi tech and tourism, are thriving. Those corporations and big developers get the red carpet from the city. But the people doing some of the hardest work, cleaning the bathrooms and guarding and maintaining the buildings, often are paid poverty wages and are struggling to get by. And in the neighborhoods where they live – which tourists never see -- basic services like fire protection and libraries are the first thing squeezed out of the city budget. We exist to give those people a fair shake. We document what’s going on, and find policy changes that are needed—things like requiring a living wage and local hiring. We get the word out and bring people together to make those changes happen. You should check out our website!

**Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth**

*Samantha Liapes, Christina Canaveral*

***In Your Own Words (from org website****):* Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth is a member-led, multi-racial community organization working to create a city of hope, opportunity, and justice for all children and all families in San Francisco.

***Version 1:*** San Francisco is a progressive utopia where everyone is well taken care of. We all have high paying tech jobs, drive Priuses and live in luxury loft apartments with views of the golden gate bridge. Sound familiar? And while the truth is that we have a city budget the size of some small nations, and in many arenas we are proudly on the cutting edge of progressive policy making, San Francisco also has a dirty little secret:  we have one of the biggest gaps between the rich and the poor of any city in the country, and that divide is growing. At the same time that we are home to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world, we have some of the most extreme poverty in the nation. Our school district has some of the highest overall scores and at the same time the lowest rates of success in the state for Black and Latino students. Two parents working full time at the city’s minimum wage can’t afford the high cost of rent, childcare and other basic living expenses. Every day, hard working low and even middle-income families are pushed out of San Francisco in search of economic survival.  We are losing our families, our children – the very soul of our city.  But there’s good news: Coleman’s hundreds of dedicated high school, community college and parent members are working to change all this. We are building better schools and paving real pathways out of poverty and into living wage jobs. And every year we help win millions of dollars for critical city services so that ALL families in San Francisco have the opportunity to plant seeds of hope and watch them take root, and flourish, in a city they can claim as their own. Together, we can create a San Francisco we can all be proud of. Will you join us?

***Final:*** Let me tell you about the San Francisco you might not know.  We have one of the biggest gaps between the rich and the poor in the country and that divide is growing. The CEO at Wells Fargo – based in San Francisco – made 18 million dollars last year.  At the same time, one of our parent members, Leida, struggles to raise her family on less than 18,000 a year cleaning corporate offices like Wells Fargo – not nearly enough for rent and childcare in this city. It’s the same in our schools. Till is one of our youth members at Burton High School. He has a 3.8 GPA and is a born leader but he won’t be going to college next year because Burton doesn’t offer the basic math requirements to qualify for a state school. Over on the west side, Lowell High School has one of the best honors math programs in the state. Don’t worry there’s good news. Coleman’s hundreds of dedicated youth and parent members are working to bridge this divide.We build better schools and create living wage jobs. And every year we win millions for critical services so that **A**LL families can thrive in a city we can claim as our own**.** Together, we are building a San Francisco we can all be proud of.

**Community Voices Heard (CVH)**

*Rae Leiner, Chris Keeley*

### *In Your Own Words (from org website):* Community Voices Heard is a member organization of low-income people, predominantly women with experience on welfare, building power in New York City and State to improve the lives of our families and communities.

***Version 1:*** In 1996 a fed up group of women on welfare decided that they were tired. Tired of having their experience, their communities and their voices locked out the decision-making processes that dictated their survival. Community Voices Heard was born from the struggle to address the inadequacies of the welfare system, and then something happened. They increased in numbers, influenced policy and began to win victories in the welfare system. They realized they stumbled onto something that worked. CVH grew from becoming an organizing group working on one issue to a multi chapter organization that now works on public housing, affordable housing, civic engagement, jobs and training. All this work is driven by our low-income members who are the ones experiencing these issues directly in their daily lives. We have a 15-year history of victories.  We won millions of dollars in job training and placements for New Yorkers on welfare, developed ways to effectively engage local residents to identify and fund community investments, and won reforms to the state tax structure to generate billions of dollars that can support the programs we all rely on. We are growing in power, with new geographies and new issues all the time, and we are winning. We'd like you to join us.

***Final:*** Could you imagine losing your job, healthcare and/or childcare? That there is no social safety network or that the network would exploit you, leaving you with no workers rights or sick days? Can you imagine being homeless while there is plenty of housing? Can you imagine your voice amongst the voiceless because you are poor or a person of color? Have you ever felt powerless? In 1996 a fed up group of women on welfare decided that they were tired, tired of having their experiences, their communities and their voices locked out of decision-making processes that dictates their lives. It was time to take action…

That was the birth of Community Voices Heard that started off as a group of 3 women, are now over 30,000 members strong with a history of 15 years of struggles and victories We are growing in power and we are winning! We’d like you to join us!

**Families for Freedom**

*Andalusia Soloff*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** Founded in September 2002, Families for Freedom is a New York based multi-ethnic defense network by and for immigrants facing and fighting for deportation. We are immigrant prisoners, former immigrant prisoners, their loved ones or individuals at risk of deportation. We come from dozens of countries, across continents. FFF seeks to repeal the laws that are tearing apart our homes and neighborhoods; and to build the power of immigrant communities as communities of color, to provide a guiding voice in the growing movement for immigrant rights as human rights. FFF has evolved into an organizing center against deportation. We are source of support, education, and campaigns for directly affected families and communities -- locally and nationally.

***Version 1:*** Here in New York City, we pride ourselves on being a city of immigrants, with the Statue of Liberty towering above welcoming "our huddled masses." These people being deported are your neighbors, your coworkers, your cousins, and they are the members of Families for Freedom. Families for Freedom is a organization that cuts across ethnic and immigration lines to band together and fight for our loved ones to stay here with their communities and families in the United States. We are immigrants who came to this country in search of better lives, and established them, with stable jobs, communities, and families, that we are now being ripped from because of our countries deportation laws. We help people navigate the complicated deportation system so they can advocate for themselves and their right to stay. We are US citizen mothers, who are raising their children by themselves because their fathers were deported and with our current laws can never return. Together we combat anti-immigrant laws and policies so that what has happened to our families and communities won’t happen to others. And we are successful, we have kicked anti-immigrant programs out of New York State have pushed this debate into the national spotlight and most importantly helped our families stay together. We are not victims, we are powerful and we are fighting for our lives and hope you’ll join our fight.

***Final:*** Here in New York City, we pride ourselves on being a city of immigrants, with the Statue of Liberty welcoming “our huddled masses” yet increasingly New Yorkers, are being torn away from their families and communities and sent far away to be locked up in detention centers and then eventually deported to countries that they haven’t lived in for many years, sometimes since they were small children and often don’t even speak the native language. These people being deported are your neighbors, your coworkers, your cousins, and the people who care for your children and keep our dynamic city alive.  They are  the members of Families for Freedom. At Families for Freedom we build bridges across ethnic and immigration lines to fight together for our loved ones to stay here with their communities and families in the United States. We are immigrants who came to this country in search of better lives, established families and are now being ripped from them because of our countries deportation laws. We are Jerry who is the main caretaker for his aging mother in NY, yet faces deportation to Haiti, a country ravaged by a cholera outbreak and a growing humanitarian crisis. We are Kathy, a US citizen living in a homeless shelter with her son Josh who she is raising by herself, because his father Calvin was deported to Jamaica and with our current immigration laws can never return. Families for Freedom helps people navigate the complicated deportation system so they can advocate for themselves and their right to stay here. Together we combat anti-immigrant laws and policies so that what has happened to our families and communities won’t happen to others. And we are successful, we have kicked anti-immigrant programs out of New York State, have pushed this debate into the national spotlight and most importantly helped our families stay together. We are not victims, we are powerful and we are fighting for our lives and hope you’ll join our fight.

**Florida Immigration Coalition**

*Rita Mendez*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** Florida Immigrant Coalition seeks equal rights for immigrants and integration into the civic and cultural life of our communities. We accomplish our mission through coordination of immigrant organizations and community education, organizing and advocacy.

***Version 1:*** Do you like oranges? Do you know that Florida is the main producer of oranges during the winter season? Do you know that most of the people picking those oranges are immigrant workers? Florida Immigrant Coalition works to amplify the power of immigrant communities to impact the root causes of inequality, defending and protecting basic human rights, including the right to live without fear. Our campaign called We Are Florida! stopped the anti-immigrant initiatives at the State Congress in 2011 and 2012. We Are Florida! seeks to change the debate around immigration in Florida. Our CCA Go Away campaign is helping to stop the new immigration detention center that Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) wants to build in Southwest Ranches, Florida. We are strong and we can be stronger with your help!

***Final:*** Florida…the sunshine state, the sand, the sea, the swamps and the oranges.. Do you know that Florida is the main producer of oranges during the winter season? Most of the people picking those oranges are immigrant workers. Immigrants work in sectors as agriculture, tourism, and technology.  Immigrant communities are essential to the social fabric of our state. I’m an immigrant and I´m part of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, also known as FLIC. We are an statewide coalition  that works to amplify the voice of  immigrant communities, organizing on issues like access to education, health access to a path to citizenship, fighting the companies that steal salaries, , and other root causes of inequality, defending and protecting basic human rights. Our ongoing campaign called We Are Florida! stopped the anti-immigrant initiatives at the State Congress in 2011 and 2012. We Are Florida! seeks to change the debate around immigration in Florida. Our CCA Go Away campaign stopped Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) of building of a new immigration detention center that wanted to build in Southwest Ranches, Florida.We are strong and we can be stronger with your help!

**FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities**

*Steven Moss, Amanda Gonzalez*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** FRESC is a non-profit organization which brings together a diverse array of stakeholders to advance these principles and achieve lasting change for low and moderate-income workers, their families, and communities in Denver, the metro region and Colorado. FRESC promotes a new vision of organizing that uplifts and empowers working families and creates healthier, more equitable and sustainable communities through policies and agreements.

***Version 1:*** I want to introduce you to Tom Rutherford. Tom is a shy, soft-spoken electrical worker who lives in Northeast Denver. A few years ago he was among the 20% of unemployed construction workers in the region. With the help of our organization – FRESC for Good Jobs Strong Communities - he joined with other workers and community members to change city policy so that developments paid with public dollars – our tax dollars – were good jobs. Tom and FRESC won this policy for living wages. Tom got his voice.FRESC works for an economy that benefits all of us. We believe the use of public dollars should maximum public good - supporting family-supporting jobs, affordable housing, clean energy careers, and access to transit.  FRESC pulled together workers, community organizations, faith groups, environmental groups and others to win the first agreement in Colorado for these kinds of community benefits.Last year, Tom Rutherford decided to go further to have his voice heard and ran for Denver city council. FRESC already has two former staff on city council. Although he didn’t win, Tom represents a growing group of leaders who believe that workers and community members need a stronger voice in the region.

***Final:*** Have you ever had to fill your gas tank up just half way because pay day isn't until next week and you need your paycheck to clear first? Have you borrowed money from a family member to cover your rent...just until Friday? This (and a number of more stressful situations) is the reality for thousands of Denver residents. Working people in Denver are having a hard time, the average janitor working full time makes just $16,000 a year. I couldn't meet my family's needs on $16,000 a year. Don't you think that people who work hard in full time jobs (jobs building our homes, paving our roads, and cleaning the buildings we do buisness in) should be able to support their families?I do, and that's why I work for FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities. At FRESC we fight for the kind of economy that benefits all of us. We believe that the use of public dollars should maximize public good. For example, if the city is going to pay for construction of a new building we believe that the workers should be paid family-supporting wages. That if we build a light rail system working people should be able to access and afford to use it. I want to live in the kind of city where hard working people can afford to live, work, and thrive.

**Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM)**

*William Blackerby, Kathy McMullen*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** Greater Birmingham Ministries strives to serve God’s purpose of justice and peace by assuaging the wounds of the **community** and struggling in community to realize more just systems and more faithful relationships. Greater Birmingham Ministries is a multi-faith, multi-racial organization dedicated to serving people in need, pursuing justice, and building stronger communities.

***Version 1:*** Greater Birmingham Ministries (or GBM) is what happens when Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Unitarians and Greek Orthodox come together to change the community so that families have enough to eat, workers get to work on time and back home at a decent hour, and neighbors connect to each other across the lines of race, class, and religious denomination. For 43 years, we have been called by our faith to lift up the stories and amplify the voices of our neighbors who have to choose between paying the light bill or buying groceries, or have to get to their bus stop at 5 AM to be at work by 9. We work with people from all over the Greater Birmingham community to meet our neighbors' immediate needs for food, clothing, and financial assistance and to help them build power so that they have a voice in their future.

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**La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)**

*Vaughn Cox, John-Michael Torres*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** César Chávez founded LUPE, a community union, rooted in the belief that members of the low-income community have the responsibility and the obligation to organize themselves. Through their association they begin to advocate and articulate for the issues and factors that impact their lives. Further, César Chávez believed that for people to have ownership of this endeavor, they have to invest of themselves, their efforts and resources, to sustain it. The membership, and the responsibility that comes with it, form the base that is the power of the organization.

***Version 1:*** La Unión del Pueblo Entero is a membership-based non-profit organization founded by labor rights activist César Chávez.  LUPE builds stronger, healthier communities to enable colonia residents to use the power of civic engagement for social change.  We provide leadership development for community leaders to mobilize residents, and social services to help families address their immediate needs as they work for social change.

***Final:*** Picture this: Romeo is late to his first college class of the day. He's stopped for speeding and the next thing he knows he's being thrown into the back of a border patrol truck, wondering if he'll ever see his parents again. But because of a call to LUPE, we were able to get his deportation stopped and get him back with his family.

Romeo's case is not uncommon. Founded by labor leader Cesar Chavez, La Union del Pueblo Entero is the first responder to the needs of folks in Romeo's situation- for our immigrant brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. From fighting deportations, to providing social services and English classes to organizing for streetlights and parks, LUPE responds to the needs of the community, and takes action that creates a chance for a better life. And we build the confidence of community leaders so that next time, they can be the first responders for their own needs.

**Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)**

*Claudia Gomez, Ariana Gil-Nafarrate*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):* Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)** is a grassroots organization of Latina immigrant women with a dual mission of promoting personal transformation and building community power for social and economic justice. **Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)** es un grupo de base de mujeres latinas inmigrantes con la doble misión de promover la transformación personal y fomentar el poder comunitario para lograr la justicia social y económica.

***Version 1:*** Do you remember ever walking into a room full of people and feeling like you were the only person there, not knowing anyone, not able to understand what folks are saying, not knowing how you are going to pay your rent, buy food for your family. Where to do you go and who to ask for help…this is what many immigrant Latinas feel. …Over twenty years ago two immigrant Latinas were hired to go to hospitals, schools and find these women. They brought them together and the women never left. Twenty years later mujeres unidas y activas is still thriving with hundreds of Latinas coming through our doors every day. Now these women feel heard, have a community (home), and learn by their own experience how make things better for themselves, for their families…free of violence, free of fear, and are active in improving our community every day. Join these women, join Mujeres Unidas y Activas.

***Final:*** Have you ever been in a place full of people and felt completely alone? Think of that place, now imagine that you don't know anybody, you don't speak or understand the language. You don't know how to get around; how to sign your kids up for school or where to go to get a drivers licence. You don't know how you're going to pay rent or buy food for your family. you don't know what to do or who to ask for help.

This is the reality for many immigrant women in the U.S. It was the reality for Clara Luz Navarro and Maria Olea 20 years ago when they tarted Mujeres Unidas y Activas with 6 other women in their living room, and it continues to be the reality for immigrant women today. We are an organization of hundreds of immigrant Latina women helping each other to find our way through situations like these. We support women to find their strength, to recognize their own dignity, so they can support each other and each other and themselves and make positive changes for themselves and their communities. Do you know any women who might need a place like that?

**Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC)**

*Vivian Stockman, Robin Blakeman*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** OVEC's mission is to organize and maintain a diverse grassroots organization dedicated to the improvement and preservation of the environment through education, grassroots organizing and coalition building, leadership development and media outreach.

***Version 1:*** I work with people like Donetta who grew up poor, but didn’t know it. Her daddy taught her how to put trout and venison on the table. Her mawmaw showed her how to gather creasy greens in the meadows and ginseng in the forest. In summer, she played in the streams. Her family never paid water bills – the well water was pure and sweet. Now Donetta’s raising her own family in the same West Virginia holler where she grew up, but she can’t let her kids play in the streams. They’re orange with run-off from the coal mines. She can’t teach her kids how to hunt deer or gather herbal medicines up in the mountains – because the companies have blasted away the mountain tops to get to the coal seams. Coal waste, injected underground starting in the 80s, has turned her well water black. It smells of rotten eggs and it’s probably the reason she and her kids have had so many illnesses. Donetta and her neighbors began working with my group, OVEC, acquiring the skills and confidence they needed to confront the politicians that let the coal companies poison the people and the land. With OVEC, Donetta has done things she never thought she’d do – like speak before cameras and lobby in the statehouse. Out work together won us a ban on new coal waste injections. Now, we have to end mountaintop removal entirely. If we get enough folks speaking out, we can do this. We need your help. Will you join OVEC? I have a membership form right here.

***Final:*** I work with people like Donetta, who grew up poor but didn’t know it. Her daddy taught her to put trout and venison on the table. She gathered creasy greens in the meadows with her granny. The gathered molly moochers and ginseng in the woods. She played in mountain streams and she drank sweet well water. Now, Donetta’s kids can’t play in those same streams, nor can they drink the well water because it’s black and stinky, poisoned by waste from coal mines. She can’t teach her kids to hunt and gather herbs up in the mountains, because coal companies have blasted away the mountaintops. Donetta and her neighbors are working with my group, OVEC to acquire skills and confidence to demand change from the politicians that let the coal companies spew poison. We need you to add your voice to Donetta’s. Will you join us?

**Puget Sound Sage**

*Elana Dix*, *Genevieve Aguilar*, *Claudia Alexandra Paras*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** Puget Sound Sage brings together labor, faith and community to build an economy based on shared prosperity. We ensure all families benefit from economic growth, all workers are free from discrimination in the workplace and all development meets the needs of our communities.

***Version 1:*** Imagine an immigrant mother waking up at 4am to make arrangements for her children to go to school before she begins her 1 1/2 hour bus ride into downtown Seattle from the suburbs to work at a hotel.  Meanwhile, her husband prepares for his 12-hour day as he hops onto his truck to pick up merchandise for Wal-Mart while he ends up breathing pollution from the dirty diesel coming from port trucks. Pause. And so, We build coalitions to support working families in building power at their jobs, power in their communities and power to change policies & laws that are impacting their lives. We bring together labor unions, community, faith and environmental organizations at points of common ground to win living wage jobs, affordable housing, community benefits from development and environmental justice for all.

***Final:*** Families need affordable housing, clean air to breathe, and a job that pays a living wage. The problem is, although we are rich as a region, too many people are struggling to make ends meet. That’s why Sage builds bridges between workers’ unions, people of faith, environmentalists, immigrants and other communities. We bring these groups to the table to forge a common agenda and build deep relationships amongst groups where that hasn’t always been the case. In a time when global corporations and big developers call the shots, we’re uniting across differences to build (grassroots) power. Together, we create solutions that ensure all families can live in dignity and share in our region’s prosperity.

**Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)**

*Ashley Dinzey, Byron Hobbs, Shani Smith*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):*** SOUL is dedicated to providing a vehicle for ordinary people to act together and build the power they need to get a seat at the table and have their voice heard. SOUL’s mission is to empower the Southside of Chicago and the South suburbs to fight for social justice and address issues and concerns within the community.

***Version 1:*** SOUL’s vision is one where families and individuals in our communities are no longer struggling to live but leading lives worth living. As a grassroots community and faith based organization of congregations and community groups on Chicago’s south side and south suburbs we work to empower everyday people to take active roles in shaping the future of their communities and society as a whole. We do this by training and developing our leaders and providing them with the skills that allow them to (1) hold elected officials accountable to the needs of the community, (2) to lead direct action organizing campaigns and, (3) to realize their individual and collective self-interest of their congregation or community group. SOUL’s commitment to developing leaders and moving them into action has resulted in several victories including: 1) Securing a 425 million dollar commitment from the Governor of Illinois to fund an urban weatherization program to train and hire hundreds of people in low income communities to weatherize homes in Illinois. 2) Winning a commitment from the City of Chicago to begin accepting food stamps at city sponsored farmers market so low income residents would have greater access to healthy and nutritional foods. 3) Leveraging 6 million dollars from the state of Illinois to replace outdated sewer system in a south suburban Chicago community where 50% of all homes and businesses would flood every time it rained.

***Final:*** Lamarr makes $250 a week. If Lamarr travels over 50 miles to work and his daily commute cost over $55 a week, how much does he have left to live?  The answer is not enough. From high unemployment and underemployment to deep cuts in social services and growing homelessness, we have a crisis in our communities. While at the same time, we see those outside of our reach— the goliath banks and giant corporations—making record profits. People like Lamarr feel powerless in this situation.  At Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, we build power by uniting churches and community leaders to create the changes they want to see in their neighborhoods. By working with SOUL to create Chicago’s Universal Fare Card, Lamarr now pays less for public transportation. Join SOUL today so others can find gainful employment, have access to healthy food, and most importantly, so that families and individuals in our communities are no longer struggling to live but leading lives worth living.

**Texas Organizing Project**

*Durrel Douglas, Ginny Goldman*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):***  TOP promotes social and economic equality for low to moderate income Texans through community and electoral organizing. In order to address these and other critical issues, Texas needs an empowered and organized citizenry. TOP provides hard working Texans the opportunity to implement real change by organizing their own neighborhoods, investing their time and energy in causes relevant to their respective communities, and collectively taking ownership over the TOP’s agenda, strategy, and direction.

***Version 1:*** I'm sure you've heard of Rick Perry's "Texas Miracle" where there's a job and a patch of land for every Texan, right?  Well try explaining that to Esmerelda Garcia who works two jobs as a janitor, lives next to a chemical plant that pollutes the air in her neighborhood and nobody in her household has health insurance. Texas Organizing Project (TOP) is made up of people just like Esmerelda that organize and mobilize year-round on the issues near and dear to them.  Around election time, Esmerelda turns out her neighbors to make sure their voices are heard.  When it's not election time, she's inviting her friends and neighbors to campaign meetings building a grass-roots base around the issues most important to them.  That's what TOP is to her, join us!

***Final:*** I'm sure you've heard of the "Texas Miracle" where there's a job and a patch of land for everyone, right? Well, try explaining that to Esmerelda who works two jobs as a janitor and lives next to a chemical plant that pollutes her air. Texas Organizing Project (TOP) is made up of community leaders just like Esmerelda that engage other members of their community because we understand a fist makes a stronger blow than five individual fingers. Around election time, Esmerelda might call registered voters in her neighborhood or knock on doors to make sure they vote.  When it's not election time, she's inviting her friends and neighbors to environmental meetings to build a strong base.  We win on issues, we engage our communities, we’re changing Texas for the better – join us!

**Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)**

*Kevin Dowling, Kerri Nelson-Wolenetz*

***In Your Own Words (from org website):***  WORC is a regional network of seven grassroots community organizations that include 10,000 members and 38 local chapters. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing training and coordinating issue work. WORC’s mission is to advance the vision of a democratic, sustainable, and just society through community action. WORC is committed to building sustainable environmental and economic communities that balance economic growth with the health of people and stewardship of their land, water, and air resources.

***Version 1:*** In the early 1970s the federal government and energy companies planned to dig up large chunks of coal in rural Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming and create a National Sacrifice Area. When local residents learned about this plan, they met over coffee in kitchens to talk about what this plan meant to their land, air, water, farms and ranches, community and way of life. They organized locally, banded with other farmers and ranchers, and set up three state-based groups. As the groups challenged the energy policies, they wanted to build grassroots power and stronger organizations. In 1979, they met in a church basement in Billings and created the Western Organization of Resource Councils. Today, WORC has grown to seven groups, with 10,000 members and 37 community groups. We strengthen grassroots leadership through trainings and coordination of issue campaigns.

***Final:*** In the early 1970s the federal government and energy companies planned to dig up large chunks of coal in rural Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming--creating a National Sacrifice Area. When local residents learned about this plan, they met over coffee in kitchens to talk about what this plan meant to their land, air, water, farms and ranches, community and way of life. They organized locally, banded with other farmers and ranchers, and set up three state-based groups. By 1979, the groups decided they needed a way to make themselves heard at the national level. They met in a church basement in Billings and formed the Western Organization of Resource Councils. WORC also provides leadership and community organizing training and coordinates multi-state campaigns. With a national voice, our members have successfully challenged farm lending practices, mining, factory farms, the Keystone tar sands oil pipeline, and fracking. Today we’ve grown to seven statewide organizations, with 10,000 members. We’ve launched our Homegrown Prosperity campaign to produce local, healthy food and clean renewable energy. Join us in making communities even better places to live, work, and raise a family.