

IAF NORTHWEST NEWS

ENJOY THE FIRST EDITION!

GEA'S FOOD FIGHT TO PROTECT CRITICAL LAND

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN IN WASHINGTON 2
- SUSTAINABLE-WORKS NW 2
- THE STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH CARE IN SPOKANE COUNTY 3
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS GET CREATIVE 3
- REGIONAL INSTITUTE DRAWS TOPLEADERS 4
- CONTACT INFO 4

Greater Edmonton Alliance launched their **This Land Is Our Land Campaign** September 20 to protect prime agricultural land in Northeast Edmonton in order to maintain local control over food supplies, open access to quality food for all residents, promote environmental stewardship, and support local farmers, thereby **ensuring the region's future health and security.**

The city of Edmonton is considering a plan to develop the land for industrial, commercial and residential use; GEA will fight to ensure that 3600-4000 hectares (approx 9880 acres) continue to be zoned for agriculture.

Municipal Councillor Linda Sloan, who has called GEA's position "**visionary**," said preserving this area should be a priority.

"Unfortunately, over time a lot of our food sources have come to rely on cross-border suppliers, even things like apples."

The campaign launch was held in conjunction with the **exchange of over 300 food baskets**, bought by leaders directly from local farmers as a show of economic solidarity; relationships between organized food buyers and area producers are essential to this effort.

MACG INSTITUTIONS MOVE FROM DEBTS TO ASSETS

Hundreds of stories about families struggling with damaged credit and mired in deep debt compelled leaders from MACG congregations to join efforts with leaders from Black Parent Initiative to negotiate with **Albina Community Bank** to provide financial literacy classes in member institutions and use the classes to identify incentives and assistance families need to climb out of debt. Starting this month, up to **50 households** will take classes at two different congregations.

Pastor Bill Gates, of Parkrose United Methodist Church in Portland, believes that as people lose confidence in their

and others' ability to manage money in the wake of recent economic crises, "the broad-based organization has the opportunity and the capacity to renegotiate our relationship to financial services. **We don't have to retreat out of fear.**"

MACG anticipates further negotiations with the Bank that will broaden access to loans and credit for **families to achieve financial security.**

"We don't have to retreat out of fear"

EMERGING IAF NW AFFILIATES

Skagit County, Washington & Sydney, Australia have launched sponsoring committees to build IAF affiliates.



3rd Legislative District: Mr. Michael Novak, Rep. Timm Ormsby, Mr. Chris Bowen, Rep. Alex Wood, Mr. John Moyna and Senator Lisa Brown



4th Legislative District: Ms. Linda Thompson and Ms. Judi Owens

STATEWIDE ISSUES MOVING AHEAD IN WASHINGTON

Spokane Candidate Forum Wins Support for Campaigns

Over 300 people gathered at the Spokane Convention Center to secure commitments from state legislative candidates to support the Alliance's statewide issues. **Fifteen candidates from four legislative districts** agreed to act on proposals that mandate apprentice and intern utilization on four-year public university construction projects; create multiple pathways to high school graduation; provide access to quality, affordable childcare for families of all income levels; and **reform the state's inequitable tax system.**

In addition, over 70 Alliance delegates committed themselves to holding legislators accountable and supporting them in taking action on the issues during the next legislative session.

Sound Leaders Arrange Candidate Meetings

Sound Alliance leaders are organizing individual meetings with candidates in their districts to secure similar commitments; contact the office to learn more and see soundorganizing.org for testimonies on each of the five *Agenda for the Common Good* issues.

SUSTAINABLEWORKS NW

Commitments made by Washington State Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown at the Sound Alliance Founding Assembly have translated into meetings with a variety of **regional organizations and government entities** that have advanced IAF Northwest's progress on the funding and implementation of local **energy efficiency retrofit pilot projects.** Leaders from MACG, Spokane and Sound Alliance are working closely to devise a large-scale project that would expand upon the success of the local pilots.

GEA leaders have teamed up to hold a job fair designed to connect unemployed and underemployed recent immigrants to careers in the construction trades. See greateredmontonalliance.com for job fair date and location.



Spokane Ironworkers Local 14 Apprentice Eric Anthony, 2nd from right, shared his story about job opportunities in energy efficiency retrofits at the Founding Assembly. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5XEGh6cgLY>

SPOKANE ALLIANCE PUSHED PROTECTION FOR UNINSURED IN HOSPITAL SYSTEM CONVERSION

Spokane Alliance fought alongside members of the **Protect Our Hospitals Coalition** to win a judgment by the State Secretary of Health Mary Selecky that nearly **doubles the current provision for uncompensated care** in the sale of Deaconess and Valley Medical Centers to the **largest for-profit hospital corporation in the nation, Community Health Systems.**

To ensure that patients', the public and hospital workers' interests were represented in the deal, leaders gathered over 600 individual and institutional endorsements and arranged testimonies about the issue from 41 leaders at the legally mandated public hear-

ings on the conversion. The Secretary's ruling also establishes an **\$80 million minimum value for a public foundation** to emerge from the sale.

CLACKAMAS CLUSTER PROMOTING CREATIVE MODEL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR HOUSING

Leaders from the Clackamas County Cluster have completed a proposal for a new model of Domestic Violence Survivor Housing in the growing Portland suburbs. Clackamas Women's Services, which provides the only emergency shelters and crisis lines in the county, **receives over 3,000 calls a year** from women looking for help to get out of abusive situations; because of funding constraints, the agency can only respond to **500** of these requests a year. Many MACG clergy have shared their frustration at not being able to refer their parishioners to appropriate services right away. The cluster's proposal is to build a revolving loan fund seeded by local investors that will provide start-up costs for women ready to transition out of their temporary housing into a **self-governing, self-sufficient housing model**

with a proven track record among people in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction in the area. Offering a pathway out of temporary housing will both provide long-term housing options for women and children rebuilding their lives and free up emergency housing for others.

The goal of the Clackamas County leadership is to raise an initial \$40,000 dollars for the loan fund over the next six months.

"I had chosen a highly toxic place to build my nest."

O R G A N I Z I N G F O R T H E C O M M O N G O O D

TOP JEWISH, LUTHERAN, & EDUCATION LEADERS TO ATTEND REGIONAL INSTITUTE NOVEMBER 9-15

For over 30 years the Industrial Areas Foundation has been holding leadership development sessions for members of broad-based organizations across the country. These sessions provide a thorough introduction to the **organizing practices and principles** developed by Industrial Areas Foundation in its 66-year history. National Training Institutes are held in March and June or July each year. The IAF Northwest now conducts a 6-day Regional Institute each fall.

Regional Institutes are intended for two groups of people:

1) Leaders of institutions that are or are actively exploring membership;

2) Leaders or members of those organizations who are engaged in a local IAF affiliate and who have attended local Leadership Institutes.

“I learned how to draw on the strength of my story”

development member organizations in its training is 7 days long and is held in year. The IAF Northwest now conducts each fall.

tended for two groups of people: are members of a local IAF affiliate membership;

those organizations who are engaged and who have attended local Leadership Institutes.

If you are interested in attending the IAF Northwest's Fall Regional Institute please contact your local affiliate's Lead Organizer.

INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION NORTHWEST

649 Strander Blvd, Suite B
Tukwila, WA
98188

Phone: (206) 575-2252

Fax: (206) 575-2262

E-mail: info@soundorganizing.org

[Spokane Alliance](#)

1526 E. 11th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 532-1688

[Sound Alliance](#)

649 Strander Blvd, Suite B
Tukwila, WA 98188
(206) 575-2252

[Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good](#) (MACG)

1244 NE 39th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 235-6474

[Greater Edmonton Alliance](#) (GEA)

11828 85 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 3E9
(780) 485-1089