

PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Northeast Task Force

January 27, 2017

Attending: Laura Krauss (Chairperson), Johnnie Monroe, Karen Brown, and ??? (Staff).

Absent:

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Agenda approval.

November Minutes to be approved.

CONTINUED REVIEW

SN16009 Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services, Inc. Rochester, NY

The Task Force voted to **TABLE** this application until the January meeting

SN16008 Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) Manchester, NH

The North Task Force **REJECTED** the application because not owned or control by the direct beneficiaries

SN16007 Feed Pittsburgh Mobile Pittsburgh, PA

The North Task Force **REJECTED** the application because not owned or control by the direct beneficiaries.

SN16006 Laundry Workers Center New York, NY

Cathy Surgenor made a site visit, please see her attached note.

SN16005 Picture the Homeless New York, NY

Laura Krauss reported on her site visit. This **application was reviewed and it was determined to meet the SDOP criteria. The Task Force will recommend this project to the National Committee for validation and funding for \$15,000.** Laura wrote the precis. It will be presented at the January 2017 meeting. Quarterly payments.

SN16002 Brandworkers Long Island City, NY

Staff was asked to find out the application status and inform the Task Force

Theresa- "I was asked to find out the status of the Brandworkers (SS16002) application. As stated in the March minutes, the application was table until the September meeting. The Task Force will need to decide if the site visit will be the next step. This group was funded in 2014 for \$20,000. The description of the funded projects was " Brandworkers trains Workplace Justice Campaign workers of food production plants to advocate for themselves for wage equity, improved safety in the workplace and elimination of wage theft"."

SN15015 Damayan Cleaning Cooperative New York, NY

The Task Force voted to **RESCIND** the project via email. The group has been notified. The Task Force will report at next National Committee meeting.

SN15014 People's Platform Washington, DC

The office contacted the group and they will send their report soon. Any update??

SN15005 Rockaway Wildfire

Queens, NY

The Task Force voted to **RESCIND** this project for \$11,250 because of lack of communication. The Task Force will report at next National Committee meeting.

NEW APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

SN16011 Alliance Taxi Dispatch Cooperation Corporation

Philadelphia, PA

SN16010 Community Justice Advocacy Program for Youth and young Adults Hudson, NY

The North Task Force might possibly **REJECTED** the application because not owned or control by the direct beneficiaries.

RECERTIFICATION

Baltimore Presbytery SDOP Committee National Capital training completed 09/23/2016 by Selma Jackson and Karen Brown.

Long Island Presbytery SDOP Committee training completed on 11/05/2016 by Selma Jackson and Laura Krauss.

National Capital training needs to be completed. New Brunswick also needs to be completed.

Laura, Northeast Task Force Chairperson, will contact Selma, Oscar and Cathy (Northeast Alumni members) to help with site visits and one re-certification in the New York City area that should be completed in the next several months.

Karen was assigned to do the recertification at National Capital Presbytery.

Teresa was asked to send the Certification training documents to Karen.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- March 14 Telephone Conference Call
- May 18-20 National Meeting in San Francisco
- Summer in person meeting, place TBD
- September 14-16 National Meeting
- November 14 Telephone Conference Call

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted, ???

Review of LWC Site Visit (SN 16006)

By Cathy Surgenor

Ron Fields and I conducted a site visit of the Laundry Workers Center on Monday, January 16 at 5:00 p.m. at their new headquarters at 80 Broad Street I Manhattan. Actually Ron attended by phone since he could not get to the meeting in person.

I had some concerns about meeting the SDOP criteria since none of the people on the decision making team (board) were laundry workers and no laundry workers attended the meeting. Ron also had concerns about the lack of specificity on the time line for carrying out the work plan.

As it turns out the people who attended the meeting – two staff and two board members are working to bring laundry workers into their movement. This is difficult to do because the laundry workers are working in individual Laundromats where between 1 and 10 people are employed. They are often undocumented women who are afraid to speak up and do not know their rights. The people in the meeting explained that these workers are highly unlikely to organize themselves. The board members and staff are doing the research to show that the laundry workers are being underpaid, not paid for overtime and work under conditions that are unfair (illegal.) The process the LWC follows is to interview the workers, invite those who seem willing to leadership and organizing training, and then encourage them to begin their own campaign.

The original research work started in 2011, but was not followed up on because other workers, in restaurants, B and H Photography , bakeries (Hot and Crusty) etc were more prepared to organize and did so. The group has had victories with these other groups and some of those workers have now joined the board. These workers are often immigrants.

So strictly speaking LWC is not made up of laundry workers and the project could be considered a “do for.” A grant application written from the perspective of a workers rights organization trying to expand its efforts and membership into a new category of workers might be more within SDOP criteria.