Quad Cities Interfaith

“Creating a More Just Society”

~Community Report~

~2019—2020~

601 Brady Street
Suite 208
Davenport, Ia. 52803
www.qcinterfaith.org

Photos courtesy of qctimes
The Officers, Staff and Members of UFCW Local 431 are proud to support Quad Cities Interfaith at their 11th Annual Fundraising Breakfast

Bob Waters, President
Scott Noyd, Secretary-Treasurer
This has been a year of change for Quad Cities Interfaith.

After working as the Lead Organizer for QCI for 12 years, I’ve been given the honor of serving as the Chairperson of the QCI Board. I am looking forward to my new role, to reconnecting with many of you, and building relationships with our new leaders as we head into 2020 and beyond.

This is an exciting time for QCI. I am excited that we have a new Executive Director in Amber Bordolo. She brings energy and a sense of urgency to our work. I am excited about the Rekindling Our Congregations (ROC) campaign, which will bring in new energy and several new congregational members. I’m excited about the “People’s Caucus” we are hosting January 11-12, 2020 here in the Quad Cities

With changes, sometimes there’s uncertainty. But as my predecessor Marcy Doyle says, during times of change and uncertainty, it’s important to remember that we are not alone in the work to build a more just community. Quad Cities Interfaith is certainly not alone in this work: QCI has many individuals and member organizations in both the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities. We have two Clusters of congregations and organizations in Eastern Iowa: the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) and the Clinton and Jackson County Cluster. Together, we are building regional power to impact our issues.

More broadly, we are part of a bi-state cohort: Gamaliel of Illinois and Iowa (GOII), which includes three other Gamaliel affiliates, composed of even more congregations and organizations which again makes us even stronger.

Finally, we are part of the Gamaliel National Network which has 45 affiliates in 17 states. QCI is the oldest Gamaliel affiliate outside of Chicago- 33 years of building leaders and creating change. Together, with our local and regional allies, we can create a more just community and country.

As we enter a season of reflection, I find myself reflecting on the things I am most grateful for: My health, my family, my faith, and the gift of being a part of the community that is Quad Cities Interfaith. I look forward to our work together.

Leslie G. Kilgannon

QCI Chairperson
Quad Cities Interfaith: Who We Are

Quad Cities Interfaith (QCI) is a community-based coalition of congregations and community groups who have come together to build powerful local leaders and address community issues in the Quad Cities region of Illinois and Iowa. QCI strives to improve the quality of life in our region by developing community leadership in congregations and other institutions, to bring our values into public dialogue, and speak with a strong, unified voice in the decisions that affect our lives.

Regardless of the specific issues addressed, the goal is to use the gifts of our people and the resources of our faith to rebuild the community and to re-shape a society that is more respectful of the life, dignity and rights of each person. Current Membership consists of various denominations and faiths as well as unions and student groups.

33 Years of Building Leaders, Creating Change

In thirty-three years, QCI has trained hundreds of leaders who have worked to bring people together to develop community-based responses to our needs:

QCI Task Force

Immigration

- Keep Families Together
- Support Asylum Seekers
- Integrated Voter Engagement
- Voting Fans of Flames

Restorative Justice

- School Reform District Wide Davenport
- Civil Disobedience Training
- Davenport Citizens Advisory Panel with the Police
- Juvenile Justice Coalition of the Quad Cities

Since 1986, QCI has been the pre-eminent faith-based community organizing coalition serving the Quad Cities, with member congregations and social service agencies participating as dues-paying members. QCI works to empower ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things through the tools and disciplines of community organizing; we provide leadership development, training, and technical assistance to local congregations and community groups.

Past Victories

- Led campaign to create Scott County Mental Health Court and Drug Court
- With our allies, secured agreement with the City of Davenport for a multi-year study of police traffic stops to address racial profiling
- Gang Intervention and Youth Programs
- Founded Interfaith Housing–rebuilding central city homes.
- Committed to local predatory lending
- Fought to ensure local transportation projects brought local jobs, training, and equitable access.
How Quad Cities Interfaith Works...

WE UNITE
As a community, we are more powerful when we come together! That’s why the leadership of QCI consists of congregations and community leaders from different faith, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. While individuals inhabit board positions, they are representative of the congregations and organizations, which serve as the actual members of QCI. Through intentional relationship building, we come together as congregations to train leaders and build a coalition for change.

WE DECIDE
In order to decide which issues to tackle, QCI holds Issue Assemblies for member congregations and allies. Through a democratic process, the members of QCI collectively determine what problems or social injustices to address within the community. For QC Interfaith to take on an issue it must have two simple requirements: the issue addressed must be winnable and the work must result in a systemic change. The leadership votes on the top two or three issues and begins building strategic plans to achieve the end goal.

WE ACT TO BUILD POWER
Through community organizing, we create strategies to achieve tangible change in our community. With proven training methods of the Gamaliel Network, we develop ordinary people into powerful, effective local leaders. Through public meetings, civic engagement, actions, and key relationship building with stakeholders and decision makers, we work to improve the quality of life for residents of the Quad Cities.
Quad Cities Interfaith Members

Church of Peace, UCC of Rock Island, IL
Temple Emanuel
Diocese of Davenport
Edwards Congregational, UCC
15th Avenue Christian Church, Rock Island, IL
First Christian Church/Disciple Women
First Congregational Church
Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities
Our Lady of Lourdes, Bettendorf
Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict/St. Mary’s Monastery
Ambrosians for Peace and Justice
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport
St. John Vianney, Bettendorf
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Rock Island
St. Mary’s Church, Davenport
St. Paul Catholic, Clinton
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport
St. Anthony Catholic Church, Davenport
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities
United Food & Commercial Workers, Local 431
QC Federation of Labor
Faith United Church of Christ, Davenport
NAACP Metro Branch #4019
Redeemed Voices Worship Center, Davenport
Hope United Church of Christ, Moline, IL
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rock Island, IL

Quad Cities Interfaith is grateful for the support of our Funders.

- The Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Community Foundation of the Great River Bend
- Quad City Bank & Trust
- Social Action Office, Diocese of Davenport
- Sodexo Catering at St. Ambrose
- Regional Development Authority
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<td>Erma Wiszmann</td>
<td>Office of Social Action, Diocese of Davenport</td>
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<td>Vera Kelly</td>
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<td>Dawn McKinney</td>
<td>St. John Vianney, Bettendorf</td>
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My name is Carlotta I completed the Mottet Leadership Institute training in April 2019. I learned important skills and methods needed to look at challenges in a diverse perspective. The training was helpful assisting me in how to articulate my vision. I learned a lot about building a team, my self-interest, public relationships, and entering the public arena.

As I mentioned I was able to clarify my vision adding self-confidence. I am extremely grateful I was able to learn to communicate my vision in a way that inspired the people around me. I was able to build a team proficient to carry out my vision.

I am pleased to say after completing the training I was able to successfully open the doors to a nonprofit organization. This training challenged me to be all that I can be. Mary Lee House of Refuge is a transitional housing program developed in the response to two needs, the acute shortage of decent affordable housing and the acknowledgement that living in an abusive relationship has serious and emotional consequence that must be addressed as part of achieving self-sufficiency.

The program serves women who are survivors of domestic violence and other crises and are looking to start over in a Christ Centered environment. Experience has taught me survivors frequently do not have the financial or emotional ability to establish living quarters independent from the person who has abused them without additional supportive service. These supportive services are what Mary Lee House of Refuge is all about.

And again, I am grateful for the Mottet Leadership Institute that gave me the opportunity to grow so that I may be of service to someone else.

3 years ago I was in and out of the hospital one to two times a month. When I was accepted into the Scott County Mental Health Court (SCMHC) program I had little faith that I would live to even graduate. Before I was in this program I had over 30 suicide attempts, 9 hospitalizations, and two ICU stays where doctors didn’t believe that I would live.

The last suicide attempt on September 17, 2017 was when I broke that law and later was accepted into this incredible program. On September 17 I hit two years since I had to be in the hospital or visit a ER. It has not always been easy for me, but I have spent some time reflecting what changed and helped me continue to be in recovery, and I want to share those things with you.

1) Forgiving myself
2) Believing in myself.
3) Expanding my support system

Through those three things I can hold my head high and be proud that I can now look in the mirror and see a person that I love I’m proud to be a graduate of the SCMHC program because it taught me how to have the confidence in myself to fight daily to take my medications, use my coping skills, and reach out to my support system. This is what two years in recovery looks like for me. I love myself, and I have confidence that I can continue to do it daily. I am using my success to help others as a peer mentor. I am so thankful to QCI and SCMHC that I want to ensure more people have access to this and similar programs.

I am working with QCI as well as attending Mottet Leadership Institute so I can continue to create change around our justice system.
Father Marvin Mottet believed that action on behalf of social justice is a necessary part of moral life. Charity, as well as social action, are the two steps in what he called the “two feet of justice.” Too many people walk on just one foot. It takes specialized training to act and walk in the footprints of justice.

After Father Mottet’s death, the community came together locally to keep Father’s vision of two feet alive. In 2017, the NAACP #4091, Diocese of Davenport, St. Ambrose University and Quad Cities Interfaith founded the Mottet Leadership Institute.

Based on the National Leadership Training of the Gamaliel Network, the Mottet Leadership Institute provides an 8-session format of intensive leadership training for individuals right here in the Quad Cities. Participants learn about concepts of community organizing such as: creating a public life, building power, self-interest, building relationships through the one to one, power analysis, cutting issues and doing actions to create change.

Through the generosity of local funders and donors, the MLI has so far graduated 56 new leaders to help create local change, including working on issues such as reducing gun violence, and disparate impact in our local school districts. A new cohort of 18 began this fall. For more info on how you could enroll in the next cohort, please call 563-343-3284.
The Need

Every person has a different hope and issue impacting their lives, their organization and their community. However, a common thread is woven throughout, that is, the oppression people in the Quad Cities face. Most people facing struggles are not looking for a handout but are looking for a means to empowerment, to better their situation in life. Many people are facing oppressions from racism, economic disparity, employment, housing, mass incarceration, inequalities in education, and opportunities.

- 35% of Quad Citizens do not obtain post-secondary education and are not self-sufficient.
- 40% of Quad Citizens are below the overall well-being index score, meaning physical, social, financial, community and purpose, with even more disproportionality amongst people of color.
- Incarceration has a myriad of negative impacts on families in the Quad Cities including damage to social networks, social relationships and long-term life changes with cascade effects to mental and physical health, labor markets and economic and political infrastructures.

We believe all people are inherently capable of solving their own problems and social transformation is within reach for all communities. Oppression limits many opportunities for people in the Quad Cities impacting their overall quality of life. By providing a process to overcome these systematic systems of oppression, people become transformative social change agents in their communities so that vulnerable families can achieve a better quality of life.

ROC Campaign

The Rekindling Our Congregations will empower ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things through the tools and disciplines of community organizing; we provide leadership development and training to local congregations and community groups.

Teams will then put the training to use as they move into Action, addressing the needs in their comminutes.
For QCI to take on an issue it must have two simple requirements: the issue addressed must be winnable and the work must result in a systemic change. This project provides trainings, tools, and skills for people to empower themselves to become leaders that are able to overcome their own oppression and improve the quality of life in our region.

Through community organizing, we create strategies to achieve tangible change in our community. Leading to a better quality of life for us all. By addressing the root causes of issues leading to housing insecurity, mass incarceration and recidivism, racial equity, jobs, education, and many others we create a society where people are not dependent on help but able to bring change to the very systems causing their problem.

First Christian Church Davenport, IA
Faith United Church of Christ Davenport, IA
St. John Vianney Social Justice Committee Bettendorf, IA
Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities Davenport, IA
Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Redeemed Voices, Davenport, IA
Unity Center Clinton, IA
First Lutheran Church Rock Island, IL
Salem Lutheran Church Moline, IL
QCI’s Issue Task Force
Year In Review

Enjoy a Highlight of some of the events QCI has engaged in the past year!

QCI is building a powerful coalition of organizations that work for social change and address the root causes of racism, poverty and other obstacles to a more just community.

QCI has participated in events on: Fair Housing, Civil Disobedience Training, Immigration, Juvenile Justice, Racial Equity, School Reform, Mass Incarceration, and more!!

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Resource Fair

United We Stand
Support For Immigrants

QCI has participated in events on: Fair Housing, Civil Disobedience Training, Immigration, Juvenile Justice, Racial Equity, School Reform, Mass Incarceration, and more!!

Meeting with Senator Grassley

Lights for Liberty

Interfaith Prayer Vigils

Stand With Love: Vigil to Support our Muslim Sisters and Brothers
Our Work: The People’s Caucus:  
Vote Truth to Power  

In order to create change from the grassroots level we seek to inform our elected officials on the issues most impacting our communities. By providing opportunities for ordinary people to access their elected officials, we build our power and influence change.

We take the social justice issues from the grassroots level to Presidential candidates. Hear people directly impacted by these issues asking the questions.

Jan 12th, 2020  
Davenport, IA

Local Forums  
School Board  
City Council  
State Senate and House

From Grassroots to the TOP
Rev. Clark Olson-Smith, pastor
Expansion Chair, QCI

715 South Third Street, Clinton, Iowa
www.saintpaulclinton.org

Sharing God’s unconditional love and promise in Jesus Christ with all people.
Becoming known as a progressive, inclusive community of faith.

St. Paul and Hope in Action celebrate their partnership with the Clinton/Jackson County cluster of Quad Cities Interfaith

HOPE IN ACTION
a project of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clinton, Iowa

"Hope in Action" is a group of people of faith who want to make a difference in Clinton. We seek to draw neighbors into a powerful community that acts together to create solutions to our common problems.

Our first goal is to create a permanent bathroom in Clinton Park. Our ultimate goal is to overcome the racism, classism, isolation, and defeatism infecting our world.
Gamaliel of Metro Chicago (GMC) is a regional member of the Gamaliel network. GMC's mission is to develop new community leaders through building networks of "core teams" and alliances with other community groups to build an organization capable of responding to issues of education funding reform, economic development, civil rights of immigrants, universal health care, older adult economic and social well being, and workforce development.

We are part of a national network of community organizations, of the Gamaliel Foundation, made up of organizations in 18 states. Great Britain and South Africa. President Barack Obama trained as a community organizer with Gamaliel in the 1980’s.

**OUR WORK**

- **Driver’s License Reinstatement Expo**
  - Serviced over 500 individuals to help in the driver's license reinstatement process.

- **25th Ward Candidates Forum and Debate**
  - Over 400 people in attendance for both events with all candidates present.

- **Academy of Parent Leadership**
  - Parent cohort made up of local public school parent leaders organizing around issues in their schools.

[www.gamalielofmetrochicago.com](http://www.gamalielofmetrochicago.com)

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QCI is grateful to all its supporters and makes an effort to get all names properly listed. Forgive us for inadvertent omissions or misspellings. Send your corrections to Office@qcinterfaith.org

QC Mission-Based Prayer
God of many names, known in many ways, bless our striving to be a community of people living out our faith and values. We pray that together we may help transform our society to bring about justice and human dignity, locally and regionally. Increase our ability to improve the quality of life in our region by developing leaders in congregations and other institutions. May we speak with a strong, unified voice in the decisions that affect our lives.

AMEN

Photo courtesy of qctimes
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With a radical prophetic witness of having a global heart, we pledge to create communion at the intersection of racism, immigration and the climate crisis.
Faith Leaders Caucus is a warm and welcoming sack lunchtime meeting for those who preside over houses of worship. We have a social time to listen to one another's needs, and then we seek to address the most pressing issues in our community. Recently, we organized a prayer vigil for the besieged Kurds, in cooperation with other local organizations. Earlier this year we held a Climate Crisis Rally with other local sponsors and as a follow up action project, we plan a "Plant 1000 Trees QC" project for Spring 2020.
Supporting the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center’s work in education and preservation

Location: 31555 52nd Ave, Dixon Iowa 52745
For more information: 563-328-3286
e-mail: wapsicenter@scottcountyiowa.com
Read about our activities in the WREN!!
http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/wapsi/wren

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” - Baba Dioum
15TH Avenue Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
3600 15th Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-786-6925  
www.15thavechristianchurch.org  
Rev. James Bisch, Pastor

Join us for Worship!  
Worship: Sunday 9:30am  
Coffee Fellowship: 10:30am  
Nursery Provided

“We are rooted in community to strike at the roots of social injustice.”  
Alexander Campbell, founding leader of the Disciples (1788-1866)

Love God - Love One Another

Spirituality - Not Religion

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
1. Gathered to Share God’s Love

Michael Swartz  
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309-762-0787  
michael@fccmoline.org  
2201 7th Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
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Mottet Leadership Institute – Building Local Leaders for Change

Next Class in 2020
Call Leslie Kilgannon 563-343-3284
for more information

Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Black Hawk College

Next class starts March 2, 2020
USW Local #105
880 Devils Glen Rd
Bettendorf, IA

Protecting Workers
And
Building Solidarity in “Our
Communities”
Mission Statement
Quad Cities Interfaith (QCI) is a community of people living out our faith and values to collectively transform our society and bring about justice and human dignity locally and regionally. QCI exists to form organizations that empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.
The Quad City Federation of Labor proudly represents union members in Scott, Muscatine, and Louisa Counties.

I'm a union worker. That means I am part of an organization that fights not only for my benefit but for everyone's benefit.
Congratulations on “creating a more just society” for the past 33 years.

We will continue to stand with you as your work continues to advance in your communities.
Congratulations and best wishes to our Gamaliel Partner: Quad Cities Interfaith

We appreciate all you do for your community!

www.faithcoalition-il.org  fccg2208@gmail.com
217-217-544-2297phone