



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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WHO WE ARE

MOSES is a community organization serving residents of Detroit, Michigan and its surrounding metropolitan region. We support the development of strong grassroots leaders, and facilitate campaigns to address social justice issues.

Guided by faith-based principles of social justice and fellowship, MOSES helps ordinary people find and exercise their civic power. We provide community members with the skills they need to effectively advocate for themselves in the public arena. In particular, we support historically marginalized communities, empowering residents to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their daily lives.

Political, social and economic circumstances in metro Detroit are ever changing, yet the essence of MOSES remains constant. We strive to facilitate a vibrant regional democracy, and to support the collective needs of our region's people.

Our voices matter...

We must amplify them together.

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Dear Friends of MOSES,

Thank you for being here with us as we reflect on our work and celebrate our successes in 2018. As always, I want to start by saying thank you – for your support, your time, your energy, and the passion you bring to our work together.

We understand that the last few years have been difficult for many, as we respond to the challenges of our country's current political climate. We want you to know that your voices matter now as much as ever, and urge you to continue to engage with MOSES as a vehicle for making your concerns heard. Through MOSES, we amplify our voices by joining together with others who share our values and priorities for Detroit, the region, and the state of Michigan.

This is MOSES' second time producing an annual report; and, for the second time, I am astounded by how much we've done in a year! I enjoy the process of compiling these reports, because it helps me rise above the details and tasks of the day to see all that we are accomplishing on a longer-term basis. In the pages that follow, you will read about:

- Our continued work to promote equitable access to affordable, clean and safe water;
- Our actions to protect and expand social safety net programs for Michigan's residents, and to ensure that they are available to all who need them, regardless of race or location;
- Our rapid-response work to protect the ballot initiatives that were passed by Michigan voters in 2018, which aim to expand voting rights and prevent partisan gerrymandering during redistricting; and
- The first year of operations for our sister 501c4 organization, MOSES Action, through which we carried out extensive voter engagement and education work leading up to the 2018 midterm and gubernatorial elections.

These are just some of the things that we accomplished in 2018 – for a 360-degree picture of our year, please keep reading! You might learn about an issue or area of our work that you want to get more involved in. Our doors are always open.

After all, your presence is the thing that matters most to MOSES. Our organization has persisted for 22 years because you keep showing up. While the issues in our community may at times seem overwhelming, never underestimate the power of simply being there for the movement. That is the first step for every MOSES leader.

-G. Ponsella Hardaway
Executive Director



MOSES Board of Directors

7

President

Reverend Keith Whitney
Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church

Vice President

Reverend James Curenton
Mayflower UCC

Treasurer

Mr. Benjamin Washburn
Christ the King Catholic Church

Assistant Treasurer

Mrs. Cindy Reese
Greater Southern MBC

Secretary

Ms. Norma Bailey
Faith Redemption COGIC

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Issue taskforce forums
Every 2nd Monday of each month

Membership Assembly
Quarterly (March, June, September, &
December)

For more information about
upcoming MOSES events,
please visit
<http://www.mosesmi.org>

2019 Key Events

Power & Advocacy Training
April 12th-April 13th

Advocacy Day 2019
May 9th

MOSES Water Equity Summit
September 28th-29th

Gamaliel National Weeklong Training
November 10th-16th

MOSES Public Rally
November 14th

MOSES Team



Mr. DeJuan Bland

Organizer

DeJuan was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. After graduating from Ross Hill Academy in 2010 he went to Spring Arbor University, where he majored in Communications and Media. During undergrad he also studied Pastoral Ministry, and is currently serving as a youth leader for Faith Redemption Center. Art has been a major part of his life since childhood and he has dedicated the past 15 years to using art to bring to life the pain and beauty of his reality through various platforms. After his graduation in May of 2015, he sought a job that would give that same sense of fulfillment and came across organizing during the Race and Power Summit co-sponsored by MOSES held in Detroit.



Ms. Danita Crosson

Organizer

Danita Crosson is a proud, native Detroiter. She and four of her siblings were raised by their grandparents, who instilled in them love, respect for others, and a deep sense of faith and community. Throughout her life, she has carried these values with her. In 2017, she was introduced to MOSES. Since then, she has been involved in criminal justice, electoral, and water equity work. She is currently focusing on organizing parents and other child caregivers around issues including education, food and nutrition, and safe and healthy neighborhoods.



Mr. Tommie Obioha

Organizer

Tommie joins MOSES as a housing organizer working between MOSES, CDAD, and the Coalition to End Unconstitutional Foreclosure. Tommie is a native Detroiter, who takes pride in the city's rich history and culture. He is committed to community advocacy and working towards prosperity for ALL DETROITERS. This mantra of equability informs his work as a bottom up organizer, creating agency and power for those who are often political, social, and economic afterthoughts.



Ms. G. Ponsella Hardaway

Executive Director

Ponsella Hardaway is a native Detroiter. Since 1996, Ponsella has been an organizer with MOSES; she is also a national trainer with the Gamaliel Network. In addition to leaders across Detroit, the state of Michigan, and the country, she has trained congregation members in South Africa, Swaziland, and in the United Kingdom. Ms. Hardaway has also traveled to Brazil and Mali to study NGOs' work on political and social issues.



Ms. Rachel Klein

Communications

Rachel Klein was born in Detroit and raised in Huntington Woods. After graduating from the Jewish Academy in 2011, she attended the University of Michigan earning degrees in International Studies and Judaic Studies. After graduating, Rachel worked as a Repair the World Fellow where she facilitated volunteer opportunities for college students at Detroit Public Schools. Rachel became involved with MOSES through the EJAM fellowship and has been working for MOSES since July of 2016. During her time at MOSES, Rachel headed the Oakland County Regional Transit campaign which was the first ever to pass a pro RTA resolution on the Oakland County Board of commissioners.



Mrs. Sabrina Ellison

Office Administrator

Sabrina Ellison was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She has been married for eighteen years, and she and her husband are proud parents of three children. Sabrina has a background in social work, and is fluent in ASL. Sabrina began working for MOSES as the office administrator in March 2019, and has been ensuring the office runs smoothly ever since.



Ms. Sarah Perry Wilson

Fund Development

Sarah Wilson has been fundraising for grassroots, social justice-focused organizations since 2011. She presently divides her time between MOSES and the Workers Center for Racial Justice in Chicago. She has assisted in raising money for work around issues including public transit access, water equity, safety net program protection, criminal justice reform, and equitable community development. She helps run an urban garden in her neighborhood of Rogers Parks, Chicago, and is also involved in fundraising for several local performing arts organizations.

Mr. Dennis Black

Data Coordinator /Field Organizer

Dennis Black is a born and raised Detroit. He graduated from Cody High School and Wayne State University with a degree in political science. Dennis is a community organizer, political operative, and data scientist that believes power is fueled by the peoples desire for change. In his spare time he moonlights as an amateur chef and DIY mechanic.



“MOSES has given me the strength to find my voice. I found out who I am as a leader and know that I will speak up and be heard”

–Ms. Patricia Williams

Our Mission

The mission of MOSES is to organize communities, develop faith-based leaders and build relationships to advocate for social justice through a group of diverse congregations. MOSES accomplishes this through training leaders in churches, synagogues and mosques, teaching participants how to articulate their shared values and work with their constituents to take collective action in the public arena.



What We Do

Leadership Development: MOSES uses time-tested training methods of the Gamaliel Network to develop ordinary people into effective leaders.

Community Organizing: Working with our partner congregations and leaders, MOSES organizes public meetings and actions to address issues of concern to communities.

Civic Engagement: MOSES encourages widespread participation in the decision-making processes that affect our communities: from elections, to policy making, to urban planning.

Advocacy: MOSES advocates for public policies that are equitable and beneficial to all people, including historically marginalized individuals and populations.

Issue Campaigns: with an eye towards the long-term future of the region, MOSES contributes to ongoing campaigns to improve quality of life for people in metro Detroit and beyond.





1

Economic Dignity

We envision a future where all residents of Metropolitan Detroit will have the right to secure, full-time employment at a living wage, under safe and equitable working conditions.

2

Education For All

We are tirelessly working toward a region where all children—regardless of race, national origin, or socioeconomic status—have access to the same high-quality educational and career-advancing opportunities.

3

Transparency & Accountability

MOSES provides ordinary residents with the tools they need to demand transparency and accountability from their elected officials. Our trainings help residents articulate their collective priorities, communicate with decision makers, and take appropriate action to make sure their voices are heard.

Our Pillars

Five core areas of work continue to “light a fire” under MOSES leaders. Based on almost two decades of community input, these “Five Pillars of Fire” drive our organization, and represent our commitment to a better future for Detroit and the greater region. We infuse all of our work with a culture of racial equity and civic engagement, encouraging residents of all backgrounds and all walks to life to take on active roles in the decision-making processes that affect them.

4

Healthy Communities

There are certain basic elements that every neighborhood needs in order for its residents to lead healthy and productive lives. We refuse to accept the idea that these community essentials should be luxuries reserved for a privileged elite: rather, MOSES asserts every individual's right to a safe, active, and engaged community.

5

Transportation Equity

To achieve economic dignity, healthy communities, educational equity and greater democratic input, metro Detroit's residents must have access to reliable transportation. MOSES leaders advocate for the development of a robust regional mass transit system, to improve access to healthcare services, healthy food, employment, education, public forums, polling places and other resources that many currently lack.

Criminal Justice

MOSES registered incarcerated citizens in a Flint jail to vote and delivered absentee ballots the following week. Additionally, MOSES organized 3 judicial townhalls throughout Detroit, attracting 118 Detroiters in attendance.

Sacred Conversations

MOSES led 12 diverse parishes from the city of Detroit and its suburbs through deep conversations on the historical context of racism in the United States. This process culminated in a declaration of the group to work with the Detroit Archdiocese to ensure underfunded Catholic schools in Detroit receive more

Transportation

MOSES created and led the Oakland County regional transit campaign. The campaign involved mobilizing 100 Oakland County pro transit residents to attend city & Oakland County Commissioner meetings. The campaign was responsible for Novi City opting into the SMART bus system, and for passing the first historic pro-transit resolution on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Safety Net Defense

23 MOSES leaders led direct actions on U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. Both declared to defend SNAP against proposed federal cuts.

Lame Duck

31 MOSES leaders traveled to Lansing twice during the Lame Duck Session and met with legislators, demanding that they vote against legislation attacking the ballot initiatives passed in the 2018 election.

Water Equity

MOSES published a report detailing the structural issues that contribute to regional inequities in the ways that water is sourced, treated and distributed to metro Detroit households. Additionally, MOSES leaders met with multiple officials and received their commitment to support the recommendations detailed in the report. While canvassing, 4,654 people in the Detroit region identified water as their main concern.



Overview

From August through November 2018, MOSES Action ran a far-reaching electoral program designed to increase voter turnout among people of color and low income residents across the State of Michigan. MOSES Action used many voter strategies including door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, social media activity, town hall meetings, email communications, and electoral messaging during congregation services. Our goal was to reach out to infrequent voters about issues they care about to drive the increased voter participation that was seen in each of the communities our work touched.

In our first election as a newly formed 501c4 organization, we learned how to quickly establish and scale up a powerful electoral program. While we experienced growing pains and faced inevitable challenges of organizing and running our first 501c4 voter engagement effort, MOSES Action is proud of the widespread reach we were able to achieve.



Strategy & Reach

MOSES action built a comprehensive electoral program by adapting our traditional model of congregation-centered organizing, which we have implemented in our 501c3 space for over 20 years. Leveraging our relationships with congregations across Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan region, we established over 30 voter hubs: congregations where leaders were trained to participate in our voter engagement work.

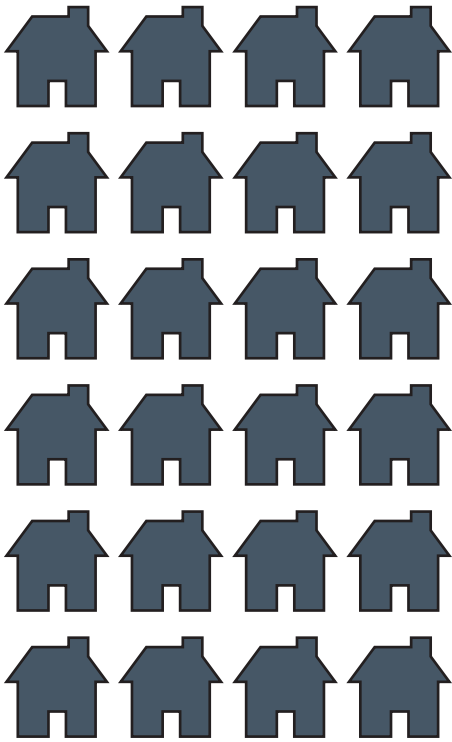
2018 Election at a Glance

17

33,394

Attempts to contact voters

MOSES
ACTION



4,654

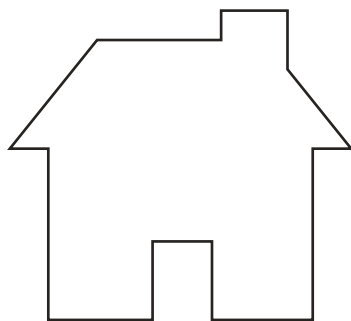
People identified water as
their main concern

11,592

Doors knocked statewide

16,674

People talked with across the
state

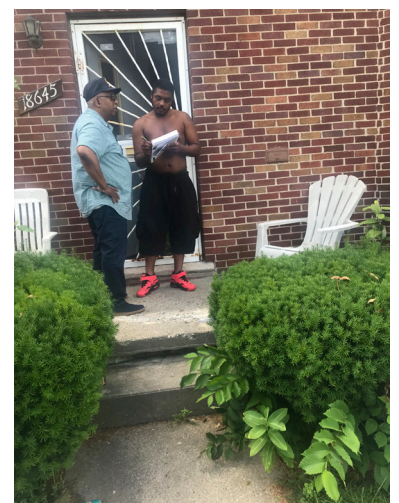


Michigan residents passed
Propositions 2 and 3.

Democrats gained a seat on the
Michigan Supreme Court.

Democrats gained three Congressional
seats: The State's two toss-up seats went to
Democrats.

Democrats broke the GOP super-majority in
Michigan's State Senate.





2018 Accomplishments

1 2018 Public Meeting

The 2018 WeROC public meeting took place on May 20, 2018. Over 100 people attended and heard about the WeROC moral agenda for mental health equity, education, and veterans equity.



2 Expanding Jail Diversion Programs

The Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton committed to working with the Mental Health Equity Team to meet with court administrators and judges to expand jail diversion programs.



WeROC is an extension of MOSES, and an affiliate of the Gamaliel Network. WeROC was officially created by MOSES in 2012. Leadership-driven, WeROC has made substantial accomplishments in creating transparency and equity throughout Washtenaw County.

3 Expanding Mental Health Service programs

The Washtenaw County Mental Health Director committed to expanding mental health crisis stabilization service programs in Ypsilanti that will support patients recovering from a mental crisis.



4 Reducing School Suspensions

The Education Action Team received commitments from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti school board members to reduce suspensions and enact restorative justice practices.



Organizing *people and communities* is at the heart of MOSES' work. Yet, in order to do this work effectively, we must also organize *money and resources*. While we are fortunate to receive support from a number of foundation partners who believe in our work, we recognize that **MOSES is at its strongest when we fund our own liberation.**

Our ideal budget is built with hundreds of modest donations at a grassroots level. With this kind of widespread support, MOSES will never have to rely upon a single funder or individual to continue our work. This is what is meant by "funding our own liberation": to achieve true justice and equity, each person must invest in our shared vision for the future of our communities. All donations are meaningful, and no gift is too small.

Amazon Smile

When you shop using Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase amount to MOSES. Go to www.smile.amazon.com, select "change your charity" and search "Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength". This site will look identical to the usual Amazon site, and upon choosing us, you will see our name at the top left of your web page. Note: you must always access Amazon through the "Amazon Smile" site in order for MOSES to receive benefits. We recommend bookmarking www.smile.amazon.com.

MyChange

MyChange rounds up your daily credit and debit card purchases to the nearest dollar and donates the change to MOSES. How it works:

- 1) Go to www.mychange.org
- 2) Search "Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength"
- 3) MyChange sends your change to MOSES



"MOSES has been challenging me over the past year. This is an organization that has shown me that not only are people willing to fight for our basic human decencies, but there is still an unrelenting hope."

-Mr. Tad Wysor



"I have worked with MOSES for years. I love that the organization has a continuous investment in the community. I'm proud to be a part of such a powerful group"

-Ms. Verna Adams



"I had the chance to canvass throughout the summer and I love working with MOSES! We had many opportunities to work in different neighborhoods, with different people, and experienced some meaningful trainings. It was a pleasure. The staff is like family to me and I would do anything for MOSES!"

-Ms. Patricia Sanders



Partner Congregations & Organizations

Congregations

Christ Church Cranbrook
Cass United Methodist Church
Chapel Hill MBC
Christ the King Catholic Church
Citadel of Praise
Community of Christ Church
Detroit Cooperative Parish
Detroit Unity Temple
Faith Redemption Center COGIC
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
Greater Apostolic Faith Temple
Greater Detroit District Michigan Conference UMC
Greater Love COGIC
Greater New St John MBC
Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue
Judah Temple COGIC
Liberty Temple Baptist Church
Mayflower UCC
Mt Calvary MBC
New Life Christian Ministries
New Mt. Zion MBC
Northwestern Christian Church
Mt. Pleasant MBC
Pure Word MBC
Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church
Second Grace UMC
St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church
St. Paul UMC
St. Suzanne OLGH Catholic Church
Strive Church
Southeast Michigan Synod ELCA
Tabernacle MBC

Organizations

482 Forward
ACCESS
ACLU of Michigan
Advancement Project
AFT Michigan
Center for Community Change
Color of Change
Council of Baptist Pastors
Covenant House
Detroit Authority Health Council
Detroit Cooperative Parish
Detroit Cristo Rey High School
Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan
Haas Institute
Michigan Power to Thrive
Michigan Public Health Institute
Michigan United
Michigan United Methodist Church
Michigan Voice
Mothering Justice
Motor City Freedom Riders
Nation Outside
Praxia Partners
ROC Michigan
SEIU Local 1
Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA
Transportation Riders United
The Children's Center
WeROC
Voters Not
Youth United

Funders

Ann Arbor Community Foundation
Black Census Project
Community Foundation for
Southeast Michigan
Center for Community Change
EJAM
Fair Food Network
Gamaliel Network
Haas Institute
JPB Foundation
Kresge Foundation
Michigan Power to Thrive
Michgian Public Health Institute
Skillman Foundation
Transportation Riders United

Organization Contributors

Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA
Spring Arbor University

Sustainers

Abraham Aiyash
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Ben Washburn
Bill Danaher
Blondell Doughty
Bob King
Brandon Whitney
Brent Ausgood
Carissa Watson
Sister Cheryl Liske
Cheryl Valentine
Christian Remus
Pastor Clyde Jones Jr.
Constance Obelnicki
Corell B. Jones
Cora Linley
Cynthia Bodewes

Rev. Darrly Moore
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Deborah Hooks
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Jewel Gines
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MerylN Armstrong
Mary Price
Norma Bailey
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Paula Hunt
Pauline Reese
Percy Johnson
Ponsella Hardaway
Preston West
Regina Thomas
Rev. Jeffery Harrold
Rev. Kenneth Davis
Richard Cassidy
Richard Maciejewski
Robert Brutell
Remembering Rev. Robert Dulin
Rodney Gasaway
Rose Fields
Samuel Kishinevsky
Rev. Samuel Spruill
Sarah Rosenthal
Sharon Hicks-Dangerfield
Shirley Dew
Shri Thanedar
Reverend Stancey Adams
Fr. Stanley Ulman
Stephanie Chang
Steve Wasko
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Timothy Killreen
Toni Johnson
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Vera Bennett
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