

November 2009

Dear Friends,

This September 8th Day Center for Justice commemorated its 35th Anniversary year with a celebration event. Our event was a joyous convening of friends old and new, with great music and food. We are grateful to all of you who have been supporting us over the years.

As we look forward to 2010 we continue the theme we chose for the Anniversary, ***Sowing Seeds, Transforming Tomorrow***. For the past 35 years, the work of 8th Day Center for Justice has been systemic change. What we do today is impacting the future and working toward our vision of a more just and sustainable world for all. We need your continued support to ensure that 8th Day is around for another 35 years!!!

What has 8th Day been doing?

On October 24th, 8th Day along with 28 partnering organizations participated in the international day of action as a part of the 350 campaign. The 350 number marks the amount of carbon (parts per million) many scientists and experts agree is our limit to prevent climate chaos. Over 500 people gathered at Chicago's largest contributors to global warming, the Fisk and Crawford coal plants, which are the oldest and dirtiest coal power plants in the country. In order to make a lasting impact for climate change these coal plants need to be shut down and we need to move ourselves away from fossil fuel dependency.



Patricia Schlosser, OSF , Mary Kay Flanigan, OSF (8th Day Staff), Gwen Farry, BVM (8th Day Staff) at Oct. 24th Chicago Climate Action.

The message for the action was, *“Chicago Sends President Obama a Strong Message on 350 International Day of Climate Action: End Coal! Clean Energy NOW! 350 at the Copenhagen Climate Talks in December.”* This action was one of 5,200 actions that took place around the globe. This is a continuation of 8th Day's work on environmental justice issues. In June of this year, staff of 8th Day Erin Cox and Stephanie Dernek were part of a delegation to West Virginia to witness firsthand the devastation done to communities and the earth through mountain top removal of coal.

We have been able to make a complete link between the extraction of coal in places such as West Virginia and the combustion of coal at power plants in places such as Chicago.

We are in the thick of preparations for the School of the Americas/WHINSEC protest and vigil weekend, Nov. 20-22. Many of the staff and volunteers at 8th Day Center for Justice will be making our way to Columbus, Georgia. The staff has been working in various ways to educate and mobilize people, including leading nonviolence trainings, holding education sessions, and outreaching for peacekeepers for the SOAW weekend.



This year there is a special urgency, as the military coup by SOA graduates in Honduras has once again exposed the destabilizing and deadly effects that the School of the Americas has on Latin America. The actions of the school's graduates are unmasking the Pentagon's rhetoric to reveal the anti-democratic results of U.S. policies. It is time for a change toward justice.

Our work to live out our call as a New Sanctuary Coalition continues. In Chicago we have been blessed by the presence of Flor Crisóstomo who has been in sanctuary at Adalberto United Methodist Church in Humboldt Park for over year and a half. During Flor's ministry in sanctuary, 8th Day has been in support of her and her work. Recently, Flor left sanctuary, and we ask for prayers for her and her family as she transitions to the next phase in her struggle for justice for immigrants and indigenous.

Last February, 8th Day declared itself as a New Sanctuary Organization. Recently, we have been living out this call through accompaniment: through the Sanctuary network we learned of a family from Madison, WI in need of assistance. Our location, near the immigration court for the Upper Midwest, allowed us to assist in the release of a man from immigration detention. We ultimately facilitated the reunification of the man with his family.

This is only a snapshot of the work that 8th Day is engaged in during our 35th year of justice and peacemaking! Your donation to 8th Day Center for Justice will further our work on these issues and many others.

As we celebrate our 35th year, we are witnessing a demand for justice work like never before. For 8th Day Center for Justice to continue *Sowing Seeds, Transforming Tomorrow*, and to maintain its prophetic voice for just change, we need your support! **Please make a gift to 8th Day for the holiday season!!**