

**METROPOLITAN ORGANIZING STRATEGY ENABLING
STRENGTH**

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

ALYSSA VEGA-FERNANDEZ
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On behalf of MOSES, I want to thank you for your financial contributions in 2020. This support has helped us fight the battles for justice. They are not new, but with your support, we were able to send staff to National Leadership Training. This was to equip them to organize and fight the battles that have arisen. As you know, we went through a truly challenging year. It began with high hopes for a new vision for our country and the possible progress in social justice. It ended with the COVID-19 pandemic and with an election that was in dispute even until 2021. Even in all of this MOSES was active educating, agitating, and working for justice for all persons. Our work included getting people registered to vote, educating them about the issues, getting them to vote, and making sure that their votes counted and were accurately tallied. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others have inspired us to work on for real justice.

The concerns that MOSES raises still include the issues of the recent past. We are still dealing with water equity and how the citizens of Detroit are unfairly overburdened with the drainage fee and possible water shutoffs. We are still seeking justice for homeowners who pay more than their fair share in taxes. The effects of systemic racism still affect our community and can be seen in the criminal justice system and how law enforcement can impact people of color. These and other issues are the tasks that our organization has chosen to face. The Kairos Table, a group of concerned clergy, and community members is being organized to help identify issues that we can address. Detroit will hold a city-wide election that will determine who the next mayor will be, along with other offices in the Detroit city government. It will be our task to get people out to vote for this election. We face a myriad of issues, but with your support, we can continue the battle. Thank you again for your support.

- Dr. Keith L. Whitney
Board President

MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength)



WHO WE ARE

MOSES is a grassroots, Black-led community organizing nonprofit serving residents of Detroit, Michigan and its surrounding region. We support the development of strong community leaders, and facilitate campaigns to address pressing socio-economic issues. Guided by faith-based principles of social justice and fellowship, MOSES helps ordinary people - especially those most marginalized in our society - exercise their power to drive change.

Vision Statement

"I think working with MOSES is what I was called to do. I started working as an organizer with MOSES in 2010 and it really enabled me to fulfill my calling around healthcare and equity.

I've learned a great deal about organizing and I had a wonderful mentor, Greg Galuso, and I learned the importance of centering people of color in the work."

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength) 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 others to take collective action in the public arena.

- Val Pryzwara





WHAT WE DO

MOSES IS BUILT ON AN INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP MODEL, AND OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF NEARLY 40 CONGREGATIONS OF VARYING FAITH IN DETROIT AND ITS SURROUNDING CITIES. WORKING WITH LEADERSHIP FROM EACH CONGREGATION, MOSES IDENTIFIES AND TRAINS INDIVIDUALS TO BE STRONG LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THESE LEADERS LEARN TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS PRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS. OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Leadership development: In training with MOSES, participants learn techniques for gaining the attention of elected officials, building community around important issues, organizing public actions and holding public officials accountable to their constituents.
- Civic engagement: MOSES encourages widespread participation in the decision-making processes that affect our communities: from elections, to policy making, to urban planning. We identify and remove barriers to public participation through direct community outreach.
- Community organizing: Working with our congregations and leaders, MOSES organizes listening campaigns to learn about issues impacting community residents. We organize public meetings and actions to address issues of concern to communities. We also build and participate in coalitions to support change at the local, statewide and national levels.
- Advocacy: MOSES advocates for public policies that are equitable and beneficial to all people, emphasizing historically marginalized individuals and populations.

RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



LEADERSHIP OVER FEAR

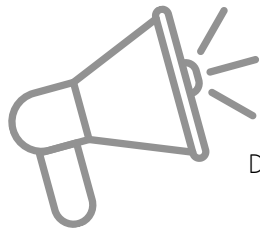
As the pandemic took hold in Michigan, MOSES quickly mobilized leaders to advocate for equitable COVID-19 relief. Water access and an immediate moratorium on shut-offs was our #1 priority, and we joined a coalition of partners in demanding that the Governor intervene to ensure universal access to water during the pandemic. These efforts led to action from decision makers that restored water to over 19,000 homes during a critical public health crisis.

MOSES contributed to the Michigan COVID-19 Community Response set of shared demands that was put together by community advocates across a spectrum of issues related to health and safety statewide. Our coalition held a week of action - culminating in a telethon that attracted over 18,000 viewers - during which we highlighted water affordability and other issues of importance as they relate to COVID-19 recovery. We called for an extension of the statewide lockdown to protect Michigan's most vulnerable low-wage workers; the Governor did eventually extend the stay-at-home order through June.

In February, MOSES hosted an online conversation about Black health and the COVID-19 vaccine, featuring Black public health officials who answered participant questions about the vaccine. Over 100 people registered for this call, which was an important opportunity for MOSES to share information about the vaccine with communities that have been especially vulnerable to COVID.



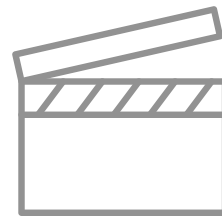
HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACTS



Got Lt Governor Gihlchrist to publicly be a Declaration Champion in National Gamaliel Action

Was a part of a week of action with MiCovid Coalition which did actions on legislation regarding:

- Dropping country and prison population during pandemic
- Education reform
- Stop ICE detention during pandemic
- Rent moratorium



Our Regional County Prosecutor campaign got these commitments from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw County Prosecutors:

- Reduce Jail population by 15%
- Increase the utilization of diversion programs, specifically:
 - Drug
 - Youth
 - Mental Health
- Creation or expansion of CIU (Conviction Integrity Units)

TESTIMONIAL

I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ORGANIZATION LIKE MOSES IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY HELP PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER AND GET THINGS DONE.

~MATTIE GREENE, DETROIT



CENSUS OUTREACH

The decennial census has a critical impact on many aspects of society and governance. It determines how federal dollars are portioned out to communities across the country and is also the basis upon which congressional representation is apportioned. In spite of its importance, most Americans are unfamiliar with how census data is used

As part of a statewide coalition working on increasing census participation, MOSES rolled out a mass census education

campaign, relying primarily on digital means to reach constituents due to the pandemic. To reach the most people possible, we leveraged our relationships with faith institutions, which have their own effective systems of dispersing important information. Our efforts to educate communities about the census also included a phone banking program, given that we were unable to implement door-to-door outreach in the spring as a result of

TESTIMONIAL

MOSES HAS TAUGHT ME HOW I CAN BE BENEFICIAL TO MY COMMUNITY, AND HOW TO EDUCATE OTHERS ON THINGS THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW. IT'S OPENED MY EYES TO WHAT IS IMPORTANT.

~TIERRA MODDOCK, METRO-DETROIT

PROSECUTORIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

This year we focused on deep community education on the role that district attorneys (DAs) and judges play in the state's criminal justice system and its outcomes, in recognition of key DA races in the metro Detroit area. We held a virtual town hall focused on educating people on the role of DAs, created educational videos and conducted interviews with candidates. Questions focused on access to justice system diversion programs, juvenile justice policies, and issues of racial equity.

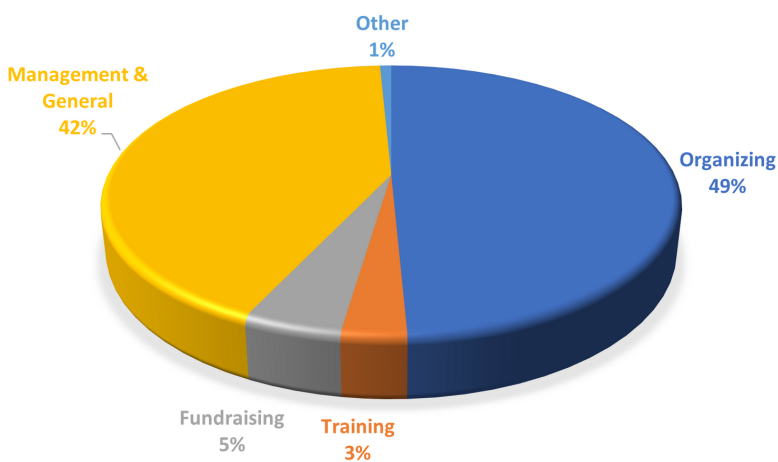
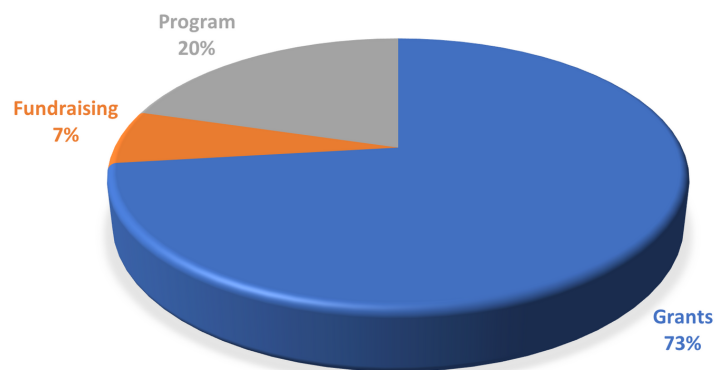
Overall, we feel that our work to engage residents around the DA races had an important impact: several reform- and equity-oriented candidates were elected as both DAs and judges. The new DA for Washtenaw County, for example, has created a new task force for racial equity in issues of plea bargaining, bail and diversion programs.





FINANCIALS

2020 TOTAL INCOME



HOW WE SPENT OUR RESOURCES



Overview

In late 2017, leaders from MOSES formed an affiliated 501c4 organization called Michigan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) Action. Having a sister 501c4 allows grassroots leaders to pursue systemic change through a broader range of vehicles, including endorsing or opposing political candidates based on their alignment (or lack of alignment) with our communities' values. While MOSES and MOSES Action work together, the two organizations have different funders and maintain separate financials.

Every Vote Counts

THANK YOU FOR USING YOUR
VOICE



2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Voter Engagement

One of our principal objectives this year was to support people of color, low-income people, and other marginalized residents in accessing the ballot and engaging in voter education to make informed decisions. We emphasized the importance of down-ballot races such as county prosecutors and judges, and educated voters about the roles that these elected officials play in their lives and communities. MOSES' voter engagement work is non-partisan, and focuses on increasing voter participation and critical decision-making.

In total, we engaged over 10,000 voters in deep conversations about issues and electoral participation, reaching them via phone banking in partnership with local congregations, door-to-door canvassing (limited due to COVID-19), and relational organizing, a process through which volunteers reach out to their own friends and family about making a voting plan.

We ran an influencer-led social media outreach campaign, focused on helping residents develop voter plans. We also reached nearly 300,000 people with social media engagement. We focused in particular on the need to educate people about how to request, complete, and track mail-in ballots during this unprecedented pandemic election. Overall, our leaders embraced the important mission of making sure that Michigan residents understood their options for voting safely in 2020, and following up with them to help troubleshoot any issues that arose.

Voter Protection

For the first time this year, we also took an active role in voter protection, partnering with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other voter protection advocates. A team of MOSES volunteers completed Frontline Election Defenders training and circulated among polling sites to ensure that voters were able to cast ballots free of intimidation or suppression.

AT A GLANCE

MOSES ACTION WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN VOTER OUTREACH AND MOBILIZATION IN 2020, REACHING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MICHIGAN VOTERS WITH MESSAGING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR AND HOW TO VOTE SAFELY, AS WELL AS FOLLOW-UP TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE HAD CAST THEIR BALLOTS. WE CONTACTED VOTERS VIA THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

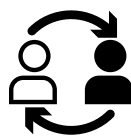


3,924



face-to-face
conversation

1,250



Relational Organizing
(via OurVote App)

527,279



Text Messages
Sent

4,749



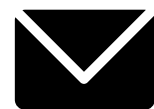
Phone
Conversations Had

600,000+



Social Media
Impressions

280,000



Direct Mail
Sent



PROTECTING THE VOTE, PROTECTING THE COUNT

THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION, MOSES ACTION SENT A TEAM OF 15 VOLUNTEERS TO DEFEND THE COUNT AT THE TCF CENTER IN DETROIT, WHERE MANY PEOPLE SOUGHT TO DISRUPT THE BALLOT COUNTING. OUR TEAM QUICKLY GOT CERTIFIED TO ACT AS CHALLENGERS (IN THIS CASE, AS COUNTER-CHALLENGERS TO THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO DISQUALIFY ELIGIBLE BALLOTS) AND REMAINED ON SITE THROUGHOUT THE COUNT IN ORDER TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT THE COUNTERS WORKING THERE, WHO WERE MOSTLY PEOPLE OF COLOR AND WERE FACING HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION. OUR LEADERS FOUND STRENGTH IN THE DEEP IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK, AND WE WERE ABLE TO SEE THE PROCESS OF PROTECTING THE VOTE COME FULL CIRCLE.

2020 Endorsements

- MOSES Action completed its first endorsement slate this year, featuring candidates for:
- Oakland County Prosecutor (Karen McDonald),
- Michigan Supreme Court (Bridget McCormack and Elizabeth Welch)
- U.S. Senate (Gary Peters).
-
- *Endorsements were made based on the positions of these candidates regarding issues that MOSES Action leaders are working on, including criminal justice reform, prosecutorial accountability, water equity, and economic justice. We are happy to report that all four of our endorsed candidates won their races!

- Civic engagement: MOSES encourages widespread participation in the decision-making processes that affect our communities: from elections, to policy making, to urban planning. We identify and remove barriers to public participation through direct community outreach.
- Advocacy: MOSES advocates for public policies that are equitable and beneficial to all people, emphasizing historically marginalized individuals and populations.



TESTIMONIAL (MOSES ACTION)

“I WAS GRATEFUL TO BE IN THE ROOM AND TO WITNESS THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND TO HELP ENSURE THAT EVERY VOTE WAS COUNTED. DETROITERS VOTED LIKE THEY KNEW THAT THEIR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS DEPENDED ON IT BECAUSE IT DID.

I APPRECIATE THE POLL WORKERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS, MONITORS, ELECTION CHALLENGERS AND THE POLICE OFFICERS, WHO STOOD FIRM WHILE EVERY VOTE WAS COUNTED.”



~JUDY JACKSON

MOSES ACTION SUPPORTERS



WAY TO WIN



KEY VOLUNTEER & PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Key Volunteers

RoRon Eady	Cynthia Bodewes
Tad Wysor	Rita Turner Sheerin
Cindy Reese	Val Pryzwara
Shanda Golden	Joann Jachimiak
Kennedi Ellison	Harvey Somers
Mariah Shropshire	Makeyta Walton
Inglish Reed Jones	Rev. Jeff Harrold
Walter Lacy	Natalie Peart
Tyra Kaymore	Audrey Anderson
Corzetta Boose	Judy Jackson
June Shelton	Rev Jeff Harrold
Ian Jones	Alyshia Dyer
Ernestine Campbell	
Ida Hendrix	
Doris Cooper	

Partner Congregations

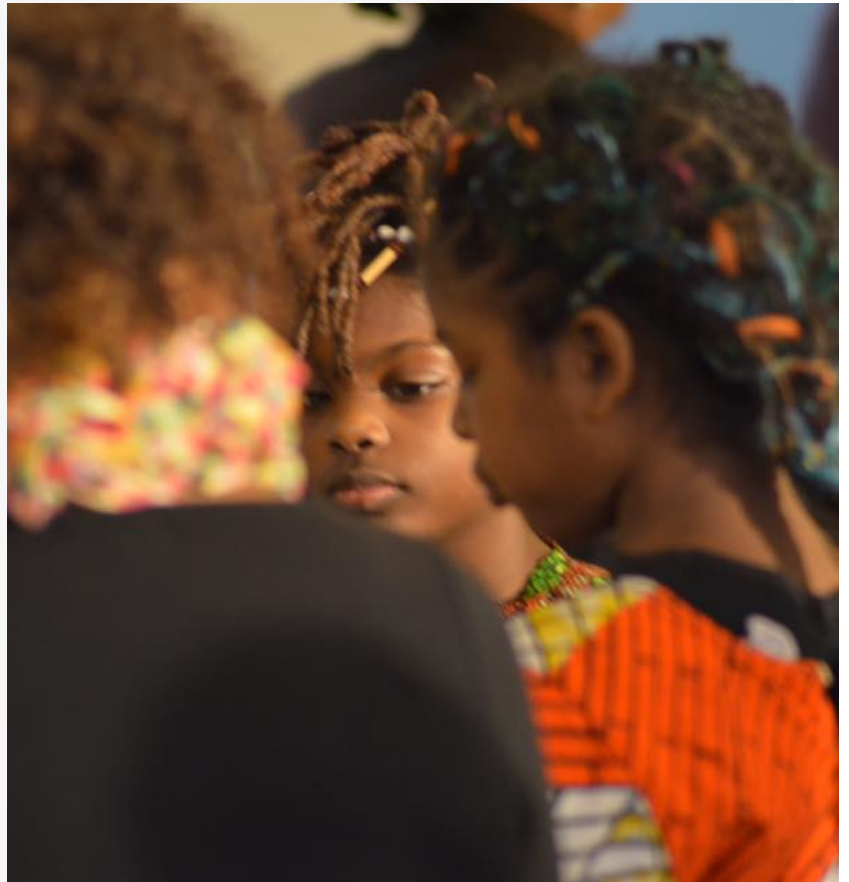
- Christ the King Catholic Church, Detroit
- Faith Redemption Church of God in Christ, Detroit
- Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit
- Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ, Detroit
- Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church, Detroit
- Greater Apostolic Faith Temple, Detroit



TESTIMONIAL

They [MOSES] made me feel important doing something that I believe in. Whatever we can do to create awareness of MOSES' efforts, I'm all for it.

~Mattie Greene, Detroit



DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their generous financial support of our work. Donations from individuals and families help sustain MOSES for the long term, recognizing that dismantling systems of oppression and replacing them with equitable solutions is long-term work. These individuals have helped us provide more opportunities for grassroots leadership development, grow our staff capacity, build awareness of MOSES, and grow our presence as a powerful advocate for the people of Detroit, the metro region, and the state of Michigan.

We sincerely regret any errors or omissions in the following list. Please contact Sarah Wilson, Development Specialist (sarah@mosesmi.org) with any corrections.

Rev. Stancy Adams
Valerie and Verne Adams
Delores Allen
Evelyn Ammons
Jennie Amos
Audrey Anderson
Paula Anderson
Fred Andrews
Vernice Anthony
Drew Astolfi
Rev. James Atkins
Norma Bailey
Darlene and Jose Barbosa
Patricia Becker
Donald Bennett
Vera Bennett
Cynthia Bodewes
Soni Brown
Judy and Bob Bruttell
Bishop James Buford, Sr.
Brenda Buford
Tina Campbell
Alethia Carr
Gregory Cendana
Ira Chapman
Ruben Collier

Correna Covington
Rev. James and Victoria Curenton
Mary Dailey
Catherine Daniel
Celesta Davis
Karl Dorn
Brendan Dunleavy
Patricia Farmer
Veronica Fountain
Tonya and Ray Funches
Clarence Gayles
Roberta Graves
Mattie Greene
Jean Halley
Ponsella Hardaway
Tamra Hardy-Fontaine
Rev. Jeffrey Harrold
John Heam, Jr.
Irene Hill
David Holthouse
Deborah Hooks
Pastor Leonard Jackson
Bobette Jackson
Gail and Carl Jackson
Morgan Jackson
Dr. Anthony Jackson

Toni Johnson
Ann Jolly
Alfred Jones
Bishop Clyde Jones
Corell Jones
Jeffrey King
Ryan Mariategue
Councilman Roy McCalister
Marissa McCoy
Donavan McKinney
Chirag Mehita
Marjorie Mitchell
Christina Moore
Aji Muhammad
Michele Oberholtzer
Tommie Obioha
Jeffrey D. Padden
Hon. David Perkins
Coral Plummer
Lucinda Reese
Pauline Reese

Lois Richardson
Gene Robinson
Lara Rusch
Anthony Russell
Denise Smith
Patrice and James Smith
Buzz Thomas
Garie Thomas-Bass
Cheryl Tipton
Leon Tupper
Nancy Ann Turner
Deborah Vaught
Charles Walker
Ben Washburn
Renell Weathers
Susan Wefald
Rev. Judith and Preston West
Rev. Keith Whitney
Hazel Whitney
Marilyn Winfrey
Tad Wysor

FUNDERS

MOSES is fortunate to receive financial support from foundations and institutions whose missions and priorities align with our own. We sincerely thank the following organizations for their investments in MOSES, our leaders, and our vision for our communities.

- ACLU of Michigan
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Community Change
- ELCA Domestic Hunger Program
- Ford Foundation
- Gamaliel
- JPB Foundation
- Othering & Belonging Institute
- Tides Foundation Health Democracy Fund

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MOSES IS PROUD TO HAVE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO SHARE OUR VALUES AND HAVE THE SAME DEDICATION TO OUR WORKS. THESE WISE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUALLY SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND CONTINUE TO GUIDE TO OUR GROWTH.



VICE PRESIDENT

Reverend James Curenton

Mayflower UCC

PRESIDENT

Reverend Keith Whitney

Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church

TREASURER

Mr. Benjamin Washburn

Christ the King Catholic Church

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Mrs. Cindy Reese

Greater Southern MBC

SECRETARY

Ms. Norma Bailey

Faith Redemption Church



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MOSES TEAM

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**ARQUESHA "NFR"
ESTERS**
ORGANIZER



MADISON KRUMM
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

A PILLAR OF HOPE

"Thank you for your continued support. Without you, MOSES would not be able to fight for equality and justice for those who don't have a voice.

- Val Pryzwara

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"I think working with MOSES is what I was called to do. I started working as an organizer with MOSES in 2010 and it really enabled me to fulfill my calling around healthcare and equity.

I've learned a great deal about organizing and I had a wonderful mentor, Greg Galuso, and I learned the importance of centering people of color in the work."

- Val Pryzwara

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STAY CONNECTED WITH MOSES!

Want to Volunteer? Contribute? Join a taskforce?

Click here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/xebCuAqJCEqVxodIBosJNA2>

- Val Pryzwara

