



The Merrimack Valley Project

Where We've Been - 2022

Immigrant Justice Campaigns - MVP leaders have led the way in calling for immigrant justice throughout the region. This past year, MVP helped pass the Work and Family Mobility Act by identifying and earning public commitments from 15 legislators, 7 police chiefs, 2 county sheriffs, and a district attorney. MVP leaders later spent 6 intense weeks on a decline to sign campaign, educating voters on the benefits of the newly passed law. Since mid-September, MVP leaders have worked on the YES ON 4 campaign to defend the law, which will be placed to the voters as a ballot initiative in November.

Substance Use Disorder & Criminal Justice Campaign - After a successful 15-month pilot program that helped bring over 400 individuals to treatment, MVP's criminal justice leaders turned their attention to identifying new community partners to seek permanent funding for the Wheels of Hope program. Throughout the year, the MVP team identified 6 new allies and is continuing the research phase of the campaign to identify more supporters in the coming weeks.

Worker Justice/Voter Engagement - As the regional lead of the Raise Up MA coalition, MVP has continued to be the leading advocate for worker justice in the Merrimack Valley. In 2022, MVP's focus turned to passage of the Fair Share Amendment, Question 1, on the November ballot. MVP leaders worked to identify supporters through multiple tabling and community events, including a canvass with students from UMASS Lowell. MVP's worker justice chair Tom Raiche was a tireless proponent of the Fair Share Amendment and hosted a weekly radio hour where he provided public education on the amendment weekly up through the election.

Community organizing and mobilizing - MVP has been working with religious, labor and community leaders to **create a culture where everyone's voice is heard, regardless of their language, culture, or economic background.** We have especially reached out to those struggling with specific challenges, such as low wages, immigration status, or addiction. We have seen much progress in the last year, especially in our intensive voter education efforts. MVP is committed to continue this work to build trust and respect in our Merrimack Valley community. By gathering people to share their situation and listen to one other, we promote transformational learning that empowers people to act together for change.



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Where We're Going - 2023

Immigrant Justice Campaigns - After a grueling four-year campaign to pass the Work and Family Mobility Act, MVP immigrant justice leaders will take a step back and will work through a regional listening campaign to identify new and emerging issues being faced by our immigrant communities. MVP leaders will also continue to support the Safe Communities Act, a piece of legislation that has unfortunately been stalled in the legislature over the past 4 years.

Addiction & Criminal Justice Campaign - MVP criminal justice leaders will continue to advocate for sustained funding for their regional transportation program, Wheels of Hope. Throughout the fall and first half of 2023, MVP will be collecting testimonies from community advocates and will be engaging any and all state agencies who could potentially fund the program moving forward.

Worker Justice Campaign - With the _____ result of the Fair Share Amendment, MVP's worker justice leaders will take a step back and will begin a listening session with our labor and community partners to identify the next issue of worker justice in the region. MVP will work closely with our labor allies from SEIU including leadership and members from SEIU local 509, 1199, 888, and 32BJ.

Community organizing and mobilizing - MVP leaders have been working intensively on our plan for 2023, focused on **relationship building across communities and generations** as a top priority. As the pandemic subsides, we will build upon strong relationships with current members and allies, and we will reach out intentionally to additional leaders and organizations in this region, so that we may hear the voice of those most affected and may work together, in solidarity, for change.