Dear Friends,

If there ever were a time for thoughtful people of goodwill to unite and work together, that time is now! The year 2015 has been a challenging and dangerous year, but it has also been a hopeful year. On one hand, as the 2016 electoral season heated up, there emerged a mean-spirited and fear-based discussion throughout the land about immigration, race, religion, women, gender, and war. On the other hand, this trend is stirring thousands, even millions, into meaningful discussion and action that range from BLACK LIVES MATTER to Voting Rights, to Climate Change, to Food Deserts to Economic Justice, to the Hidden Trauma within all of us that needs healing. In Greensboro, the Beloved Community Center (BCC) has remained a central hub for progressive organizing, even as it has emerged as one of our nation’s premier place-based organizations, having both North Carolina and national reach.

BCC is playing a leading role in the struggle to change the police culture and to grow a broad citizen awareness of our duty to hold our police accountable. BCC joined with Working America and others to help Greensboro become the first city in the South to secure $15.00 an hour for all full-time city employees. BCC also partnered with Faith Community Church to install solar panels on the church roof, while working with 12 other African American churches to do the same. BCC is challenging the monopoly operation of Duke Energy as party to a complaint, initiated by NC WARN, that requests the NC Attorney General to hold Duke Energy accountable to its state issued corporate charter.

BCC’s Nelson Johnson, Joyce Johnson, and Lewis Brandon joined the City of Greensboro in a legal case that prevented the State of NC from gerrymandering Greensboro’s voting districts and denying citizens a voice in determining our own form of local government. Yes, this has been a challenging year, but STILL WE RISE! Thanks for your continued support.

Doing a Lot with Little  
“Still We Rise”

A PARTIAL SYNOPSIS OF OUR WORK IN 2015

- Hosted over 45 weekly Public Space Round Table Discussions every Wednesday from 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM.
- Worked diligently to urge Greensboro to select a new police chief that could lead the city into a new era.
- Worked closely with the State NAACP and almost 200 coalition partners to help mobilize 40,000 at the annual HKonJ in Raleigh for voting rights, equity, etc.
- Guided the planning, mobilization and facilitation of quarterly Police Accountability, Community Safety and Healing Initiative (PACSHI) meetings.
- Hosted a Clean Slate Clinic for over 300 ex-offenders seeking to clear their records.
- Played the leading role in forming a Community-City Working Group, composed of a cross-section of 20 diverse people, including Greensboro’s Mayor, that meets weekly to seriously engage the abuse of police power.
- Helped mobilize people to oppose and filed a lawsuit to prevent enactment of Senate Bill 36 that would have denied Greensboro citizens a voice in drawing their own district lines and in establishing their own form of government.
- Led an initiative to persuade the City to vote in favor of erecting a Historical Marker, properly naming the Klan/Nazi killings on November 3, 1979 a MASSACRE.
- Organized a “Thousand Black Youth Gathered” summer campaign to confront the police abuse of power.
- Received a delegation from Ferguson, MO, that requested BCC’s council and assistance in forming a “Telling the Truth Campaign.”
- Installed solar panels on the roof of Faith Community Church in partnership with NC WARN.
- Played a leading role in facilitating a front page New York Times article on police disparities in Greensboro.
- Hosted approximately 1,000 individuals from around the country for “Grassroots History Tours” organized by Lewis Brandon, BCC’s Grassroots History Coordinator. Participants included college and school-aged youth, social movement leaders, researchers and media representatives.
- Played the leading role in overturning the false charges brought against the Scales Brothers and receiving an apology from the City for wrongful charges and police abuse of the Scales Brothers.

BCC is doing good work, including facilitating different people and groups coming together to create enduring change. To make a donation, use the form on page 4 or donate online at www.belovedcommunitycenter.org.

The Wednesday Table: Every Wednesday from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 PM, diverse people gather at BCC for an open discussion of many issues and concerns. All are welcome. Join us!

The Greensboro Massacre: After 36 years, the City acknowledged the 1979 massacre in which the police were complicit and found liable in Federal Court.

The CDF-Proctor Conference: The BCC sponsored a bus to take a delegation of youth from the Greensboro area to the Joint Children’s Defense Fund Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy at Haley Farm, TN. Pictured above are some of the youth, along with BCC staff.
BCC Hosted Ben & Jerry’s Foundation Learning Tour:
Pictured at the top is Rev. Barber, NC NAACP President, with Jerry Greenfield, B&J’s co-founder, along with B&J Board leadership plus Joyce and Nelson Johnson. Pictured together at the bottom are B&J Board and Staff with BCC Staff & Volunteers.

A Ferguson, MO Consultation:
Shown above at left is delegation of three from Ferguson, gathered for consultation about its “Ferguson Truth Speaking Project” with BCC, St. Julien-Brown (NC WARN) and Rev. survivors of 1979 Massacre Johnson at a Climate Change Conference in Greensboro.

The Struggle Against the Anti-democratic NC Senate Bill 36:
Without any authentic public consultation, a bill was introduced in the NC Senate that would gerrymander Greensboro and take away the City’s right to have any voice on its own form of government. The BCC and the Pulpit Forum (a black clergy group) opposed the bill’s anti-democratic impact. Pictured to the right is Greensboro’s Mayor Nancy Vaughan, speaking against the bill at a public discussion convened by clergy.

Climate Change & Solar Energy:

VOTING MATTERS:
Below students are standing for voting rights. Eniola Adeniyi, a BCC Youth Volunteer, along with two other students proclaimed that “I VOTE!” BCC, in partnership with other organizations in Greensboro and across NC, is involved with civic engagement on multiple levels.

Black Lives Matter on the March:
The Black Lives Matter energy has significantly advanced the movement in Greensboro and the nation. BCC’s youth organizer played a major role in a number of marches and other activities in the fall of 2014 through the summer of 2015. Above is a Black Lives Matter team in the 2015 Greensboro NAACP MLK parade.

BCC Serves as a Hub, Uniting Many Movement Components in Greensboro. Help maintain and strengthen that important work. Donate Online now at www.belovedcommunitycenter.org or Mail in the form on page 4.
2016—Going Forward

We at the BCC are excited about the coming year. We feel one of the greatest needs in 2016 is to facilitate the training and leadership of young people. Young people will be represented in all areas of BCC’s work. Programmatically, we will focus on the five following areas:

1. Establish a high quality Beloved Organizing, Training and Healing Institute (BOTHI).

2. Continue the Police Accountability work with a focus on transforming the culture of the Greensboro Police.

3. Expand the Solar Energy work to include more churches and connect more tightly with the Climate Change Movement.

4. Promote Economic Justice in all spheres.

5. Promote Relevant, Quality, Equitable Education on all levels.

Our priority will be building the Beloved Organizing, Training and Healing Institute, as it will grow our capacity in all other areas.

BCC Volunteers, C. J. Brinson, Eniola Adeniyi, and Camara Peacock, helped organize and lead the discussion of the relevance of and lessons from the movie, Selma, to today’s movement. A few days later, the youth also led a dynamic, informative, well-attended, intergenerational Community Gathering and City Council Candidates’ Forum.

Dr. Claude Barnes, BCC Senior Research Associate, led a discussion with a national group of youth from the Episcopal Church. BCC hosted many similar groups where Grassroots Historian Lewis Brandon and BCC Staff shared movement history and BCC’s successful organizing and community-building model.

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**SUPPORT THE MISSION AND WORK OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY CENTER TODAY!**
MAIL YOUR TAX-EXEMPT DONATION TO POST OFFICE BOX 875, GREENSBORO, NC 27402
or Donate Online at [www.BelovedCommunityCenter.org](http://www.BelovedCommunityCenter.org)