End of Year Review: 2019

Working Together and Walking Towards Each Other

Worker Justice Unions and the Fight for a Livable Wage & Wealth Equity

Community Justice, Healing and Safety Advocates

Grassroots & Neighborhood Organizations

City & County Elected Officials, Boards/Commissions

Neighborhood, High School, and College Youth

Faith-Based and Religious Organizations

Forging a Better Greensboro & a Better Nation

Civic Engagement and GOTV Workers

Climate Change and Environmental Justice Activists

Doctors, Nurses, and Health Care Workers

Professors, Teachers, Researchers

Cultural Workers: Artists, Musicians, Poets, Dancers

Homeless Community Members & Fair Housing Advocates

Faith-Based and Religious Organizations

FORGING A BETTER GREENSBORO & A BETTER NATION

CONNECTING GENERATIONS, MOVEMENTS & PEOPLES

The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro

417 Arlington Street, Greensboro, NC 27406 ~ www.belovedcommunitycenter.org ~ 336-230-0001
Our Mission

"Our mission, working together with others, is to forge and continually expand a quality of leadership and beloved community to guide Greensboro into a new era of economic sufficiency, peace, social and racial justice that can serve as a model and an inspiration for ourselves, our region, and our nation."

We're Digging In and Working Hard!

The key to making progress in this period of hyper-division, confusion, and falsehood is attracting and growing a broad base of quality community-building leaders from many sectors. 2019 has been both a year of challenges and positive accomplishments. The Beloved Organizing Training and Healing Institute (BOTHI) has been engaged in training and community organizing, accented by "deep dives" during weekend-long training sessions, all linked to our mission of guiding Greensboro into a new era.

"If There Is No Struggle, There Is No Progress"

The most difficult challenge and struggle facing our transformative movement is resolving contradictions and learning to work together. As Frederick Douglass prophetically said, "if there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are like men who want crops without plowing the land. They want rain without the thunder and lightning; they want the ocean's majestic waves without the awesome roar of its waters."
Coalition building across racial, gender, generational, faith traditions, political, and other culturally imposed lines of division is necessary to advance our mission as a part of transforming Greensboro and the nation.

Above - Intergenerational community organizers building beloved community through engaging pressing community issues, including voting, jobs, education, mass incarceration, and building the Poor People’s Campaign.

Above - A weekly Pulpit Forum meeting, chaired by Reverend Dr. Daran Mitchell, where 13 pastors held a media conference to demand an apology of substance from the City of Greensboro for the police-facilitated 1979 Greensboro Massacre.

Above - Mary Smith and Kim Suber, mother and sister of Marcus Deon Smith, gathered with community members on the first anniversary of Smith’s death. Marcus Smith, undergoing a mental episode, was hogtied and killed on September 8, 2018, while in the custody of the Greensboro Police.

At right - The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA), which includes members from five cities across the country, gathered in Greensboro for five days of training, centered on equipping leaders and organizations to improve “the life outcomes of Black men and boys.” Sponsored by American Express, training time is shared equally between BCC and the Center for Creative Leadership.

Above - Eighty Summer Trainees of the Popular Education Project gathered at BCC for a two-day training session, focused on social transformation and movement-building.
Forty Years after the Greensboro Massacre: "Still We Rise!"

Above is an interfaith worship service at Shiloh Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC, on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019. The massacre survivors, together with participants from around the country gathered with the Greensboro Community in prayer and re-commitment to truth, justice, and healing. Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, USA, delivered a powerful sermon on the challenge of the church to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.” The worship service was the concluding activity of three days of reflections, including a plenary, educational videos, workshops, panels, original paintings by Aliene Howell, drumming by Cakalak Thunder, singing by the Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble, dancing by Contra-Tiempo, renewal of friendships, and tears of joy. The weekend activities, which were kicked off Friday evening at A&T by a dynamic community play reading of Emily Mann’s award-winning Greensboro: A Requiem, were co-sponsored by NC A&T State University, Bennett College, the 40th Anniversary Steering Committee, and the Beloved Community Center. Special livestreaming and video support was provided by Repairers of the Breach of Goldsboro and by the Freedom Center of Charlotte. Hundreds participated in the activities in person, while thousands viewed the proceedings via livestream.

Celebration of Movement Life After Death

Still We Sing! Still We Organize!

Joyce Johnson, Signe Waller (widowed), Marty Nathan (widowed), Nelson Johnson (injured), Florence Cauce Weston (widowed), and Willena Cannon, all survivors of the 1979 Massacre, sing together with over 400 gathered at Bennett College on Nov. 2, 2019. This celebratory moment was followed by a rich panel discussion and eight movement-building workshops.
November 2, 2019 — A Day of Learning and Relationship Building with a Plenary, Panels, Workshops, and Dance Performances

Some 400 people gathered in the Pfeiffer Chapel at Bennett College, where we were greeted and welcomed by President Suzanne Walsh, followed by a powerful analysis of the significance of the Greensboro Massacre in this period, delivered via video by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II. That analysis was deepened during an engaging panel discussion, featuring Rev. Canon Naomi Tutu, Atty. Flint Taylor, Ms. Ash-Lee Henderson, Rev. Starsky Wilson, and Dr. Marty Nathan. More Commemoration details can be found at www.belovedcommunitycenter.org and Facebook.

It is More Noble to Die for Something Than to Live for Nothing

Following the powerful plenary, the Faith and Religious workshop, pictured to the left was one of eight movement building workshops held on November 2, 2019 at Bennett College. Sitting at the front of the table is Ched Myers, renowned religious author, and to his right is Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, CA, and member of the National Council of Elders. Also present was Rev. Janet Wolf of the Children’s Defense Fund, along with numerous other faith leaders.

Yes, family, friends, and comrades gathered at the grave site of our fallen freedom fighters for deep, solemn and sacred moments of remembrance. Some wept. Others shared humorous stories. We all felt the spirit of the five who gave their lives in the quest for justice and freedom: Cesar Cauce’, Dr. Michael Nathan, Bill Sampson, Sandi Neely Smith, and Dr. Jim Waller.
Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington - June 20, 2020

The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro supports the Mass Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington. We will be joining with the Poor People’s Campaign as part of our ongoing community-building and transformative organizing and civic engagement work in Greensboro and beyond. For more information, please visit The Poor People's Campaign website at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org. If you or your organization are in the Greensboro area, you may coordinate directly with us through the Beloved Community Center at www.belovedcommunitycenter.org.

"Together We Can Move Mountains. Alone We Can Hardly Move at All."

Our nation is arguably in the most dangerous and divisive period since the Civil War. This division grows out of a confluence of massive income and wealth inequities, escalating confusion and hatred, rooted in falsehoods, fear and threats of reprisals, including violence. We are convinced, however, that inherent in great dangers are great opportunities. On the front of this brochure is a circle, depicting key areas of life and learning that are necessary to engage in order to grow a healthy city (or nation). Among us we already have the expertise, gifts and skills required. Our challenge is helping us to learn to work together for our common good. We at BCC believe that we can, with your help, do a qualitatively new thing. In addition to all the systemic changes needed, as Dr. King said, “we need a revolution of values,” as well. Without a tremendous growth in our morals and ethics, we will be disconnected and pitted against each other.

DONATE TODAY & BECOME PART OF THE BELOVED CIRCLE

The Beloved Community Center is actively modeling what it looks like to grow sufficient local power, linked with state and national movements to guide a city of 300,000 into a new era. This will have significance far beyond Greensboro. We ask for your help by making a long term commitment to donate to the Beloved Community Center on a monthly basis, or to make a generous one-time annual gift, or consider making a distribution from your individual retirement account. BCC is an IRS 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit entity. You may mail a check or pay online at www.belovedcommunitycenter.org. We hope this 2019 End of Year Report provides a glimpse of our vision, mission and work. We invite you to join us in transforming Greensboro and our country into a new era of beloved community.

Thank you for your love and support,

Nelson and Joyce Johnson, Co-Executive Directors, on behalf of the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro

DONATE NOW!!!

Enclosed is my contribution of (CIRCLE ONE):

$2,500  $1,000  $700  $500  $100  Other: $______

I would like to make a monthly contribution of: $______

(My first check is enclosed.)

Mail your tax-exempt contribution to:
Beloved Community Center (or BCC)
Post Office Box 875, Greensboro, NC 27402

OR
Make your secure donation online at:
www.belovedcommunitycenter.org OR Visit us on Facebook

OR
CALL US AT (336) 230-0001

Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
This donation is made in honor of and/or in memory of: _____________________________