All showcased artwork was a part of Artists in Absentia, an art show run through the Oakhill Prison Humanities Project, which is a volunteer organization of graduate students and faculty from Madison-area educational institutions, who hold workshops in the fine arts and humanities with inmates at Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon, WI. The intention of the program and subsequent art show is to promote awareness among the Madison community about injustices in our county, state, and nation’s social systems, especially incarceration.

About MOSES

MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity) is a grassroots, interfaith organization working in the Madison area that unites congregations, individuals and non-profit organizations to build a better community. We join together to take action on social justice issues affected by public policy, beginning with the problem of mass incarceration in Wisconsin. We are an affiliate of WISDOM, a statewide network of organizations like ours. MOSES had its formal commitment ceremony in November of 2012, meaning we are four years old in November 2016. We welcome faith communities, individuals, and other partners to join MOSES to build community and address issues of social injustice.

We seek to:
- Deliver a message of hope, healing, and unity that reaches beyond the divisions of race, creed, and social-economic barriers.
- Build solid relationships with one another and with the greater community.
- Identify and take action on root causes of poverty, oppression, and injustice.
- Empower and train leaders to respond to injustices at the local, state, and national level.
- Be agents of change that build upon and create strong and just communities.
- Begin a discussion on social justice issues and their possible solutions in our communities.

To create change, MOSES uses:
- **Connection:** Relating to each other and to those in our community, including those different from ourselves;
- **Education:** Helping communities better understand the public policy issues that affect our lives;
- **Training:** Enhancing our abilities to act as leaders;
- **Advocacy:** Speaking with a common voice so public policy better reflects our common values;
- **Action:** Moving beyond the walls of our congregations to make our presence felt and to transform our communities.

Working Locally, Throughout the State of Wisconsin, and Across the Nation

MOSES is part of a powerful statewide organization, WISDOM, with 11 other congregation-based affiliates across the state, which work to live out their values in the world. WISDOM is a member of the Gamaliel Foundation, a national network that works to address issues of justice. While MOSES maintains its own board of directors, bylaws, and finances, and selects its issues locally, our partnership with WISDOM and Gamaliel allows us to work together at the state and national level when needed.

MOSES is Non-Partisan

As an organization that works to address systemic change, we are often engaged in public policy affairs. However, we do not endorse candidates or parties. We believe in the need to build relationships with all elected officials, state and local, and in the need to hold public officials accountable no matter what party they represent.
Dear MOSES Members and Supporters,

Last year the theme in MOSES was change, this year has been one of progress, slow and steady progress. We expanded our outreach through community education and we put our voices together with the aim of influencing our State Legislators through public awareness events. We participated in local government agency hearings and meetings making sure that our individual voices were heard and letting it be known that there was an engaged public that was going to hold our government officials accountable for the decisions that were being made.

We worked together to strategize for a better future that emphasizes healing, instead of the system of punishment that we currently have in place. Some of our proposals made it into the county budget. Some of our members contributed to Dane County workgroups.

Internally, we worked to examine our own personal relationships with these issues. We learned about implicit bias, crimeless revocation, and the tragedies that occur behind closed prison doors through solitary confinement. It hasn’t always been an easy or even satisfying process. It is painful to look closely at how our institutions shape us to live less fully and to care less deeply than we would if those institutions supported everyone in our society. Our culture raises us up to be the unwilling accomplices to policies and agendas that we are beginning to recognize as tools of hate. The issues we are facing are not just about how we as a society treat people who have been convicted of crimes. They are much more fundamental. We are trying to bring a sense of justice and purposeful humanity into every moment of our lives and our communities. These are lofty but necessary goals. To live fully there is no other option than to fight for healing justice and change. As members of MOSES, we know this, and as a social justice organization working towards prisoners’ rights, we have taken up the task of examining our very core selves, our society, our relationships and how we identify ourselves in an attempt to make things better. We have taken up the challenge presented by our own personal observations and experiences, to employ a greater sense of love and understanding in all of our interactions and relationships. We are committed to rooting out the social biases that we have all unwittingly allowed ourselves to believe. We have taken up the charge to disassemble institutionalized racism and biases against previously incarcerated individuals.
Now, it is tempting, in the face of our daily realities, to feel the necessity of change, but also, to be exhausted by the slow moving nature of the changes we seek. We attend meetings. We have conversations with friends and colleagues. We orchestrate events to educate the community to become aware and express their beliefs through the democratic process. Sometimes it feels futile, like we are pushing up against a system too large to tumble. At times, it feels like we are making no progress. That is not true. It is now, more than ever, that we have to remember the power of the legislative process. We have to remember that while legislative change is slow, it is effective. In this decade alone, we have ushered in a whole wave of protections and rights for people of all different backgrounds. This must be the beacon that we hold out to ourselves during this arduous battle. Remember change is real. As individuals engaging the democratic process, we can use our voices and experiences to be the catalyst for that change. Although clearly embattled, the spirit of the country is shifting to recognize the need to heal, to forgive, to grow together, to take care of our weak and our sick, to recognize the injustices we have committed against the disempowered, people of color and women. We are starting to see the policies that set people up for failure, landing them with criminal records and trapping them in a system that thrives off of their instability. We are all waking up to realize that we can’t just sit idly by and let things transpire. We must STAND UP and speak our minds, for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our communities and our children’s futures.

While attending meetings and writing letters and sharing with our legislators what is in our minds and in our hearts is a slow process, remember how effective it has been in bringing about systemic and lasting change for the better. Remember the words of Frederick Douglass, *Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.* It is understandable that this fight might feel slow and we might not see the immediate change we are hoping to effect, but this is not about feeling rewarded for doing human rights work, it is about demanding change and pushing incrementally and patiently towards progress, justice and love. We are equal to this challenge.

Eric Howland, President, MOSES

---

**Executive Committee and Staff:**

Eric Howland, President
Talib Akbar, Designated Vice President
Carolyn Moynihan Bradt, Vice President
Alison Brooks, Secretary
Anne Hines and Pam Gates, Assistant Secretary
Pat Anderson and Rain Zephyr, Treasurer
Frank Davis, Organizer (October 2016 - present)
Reneé Gregory, Administrator
Ann Lacy, Financial Secretary
Sister Joan Duerst, Director, Religious Leaders Caucus

The MOSES Executive Committee extends grateful thanks to Reneé Gregory for her years of dedicated service to the organization: for leading the team that created the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 MOSES yearbooks, for chairing the Communications Committee for years, for, often single-handedly, producing monthly newsletters, and, as MOSES Administrator, for keeping MOSES together throughout 2016.
Ways to Support MOSES

Learn…
Check out the MOSES website: www.mosesmadison.org. Attend a monthly meeting (usually the first Saturday of each month from 10-noon, location varies, but is always listed on the website.)

Get involved…
Serve on a committee. Volunteer for an action. Participate in a training.

Donate…
The more financial support MOSES receives from our members — congregational, organizational, and individual — the less dependent we are on donations that may come with strings attached, and the less time we need to spend seeking and writing for grants.

One of the advantages of being an affiliate of WISDOM is that MOSES, like all of the other affiliates across the state, is able to share in WISDOM’s 501 (c) 3 status, and also its coordination of an electronic giving program through electronic funds transfer.

Tax-deductible donations in any amount are always welcome, and may be mailed at any time to: MOSES, PO Box 7031, Madison, WI 53707. For information on enrolling in the monthly giving program, please download an individual membership form from the MOSES website or contact the MOSES Treasurer at: treasurer@mosesmadison.org.

Members of MOSES:

Advent Lutheran Church
Bethany United Methodist Church
Breaking Barriers Mentoring
Call to Action Madison Area
First Unitarian Society of Madison
Fountain of Life Family Worship Center
Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Wisdom Monastery
Hoover Family Foundation
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Lake Edge United Church of Christ, Christ-Centered Justice Team
Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Memorial United Church of Christ, Fitchburg
Midvale Community Lutheran Church
Plymouth United Church of Christ Discipleship Team
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
St. John’s Lutheran Church
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
Snowflower Buddhist Sangha
Southwest Wisconsin Association, UCC, Division on Social Concerns
Unity of Madison
Zion City International Church Ministries
Thank you for your support
October 2015–November 2016

Sustainers ($120+)
Bethany United Methodist Church
Carin Bringelsen and Bev Buhr
Roger Brooks
Dennis and Kathy Burke
Stan and Coletta Corwin
Beth Esser and Derek Peterson
Kaelin Fontaine
Tom and Jan Gilbert
Glen Gordon
Eric Hettler
Frances Hoffman
Karen Julesberg
Nancy and Andy Kosseff
Ann Lacy and Steve Klafka
Allen and Joan Liegel
Tim and Rebecca McFadden*
Susan and Terry Millar
Monona United Methodist Church
Karen Julesberg
Lisa Munro and Dick Goldberg
Monona United Methodist Church
Carol Rubin
Sinsinawa Dominicans
Janette C. Smart Family
Charitable Remainder Trust
Steven and Susan Spiro
Valerie Webster*
Lisa and Kenneth West
Rain Zephyr

Pat Ball
Barbara Benson
Jeanne Burger
Barbara Chusid
Karen and Jerry Cook
Julie Cornelius and Emile Nadeau*
Ruth Whalen Crockett
Wynn Davies
Barbara Ebert*
Janine Edwards
Florence Filley
Andrew and Emily Foster
Suzanne and Russell Gardner
Shirley Gilmore*
Benjamin Goldfarb
John Gordon*
Deanna Grahn
Hatheway Hasler
Tina Hogle
Hoover Family Foundation
Ralph and Marie Jackson
Erik Johnson
Joan and Tom Kemble
Mary Kilginstad
John Koch
Katherine Kosseff
Irene Kracht*
David Liners and Julie Clark
Juli Loker
Todd Marcotte
John McFadden*
Julie Melton
My Blessing Circle
Peter Olson and Cheryl Thayer
Melissa O’Rourke*
Leila Pine and Craig McComb
Ruth Poochigan
Paul Reith
A and J Ryter
John Saecker
Paul Saeman and
Mary Wallace
Stephanie Sorensen
Deborah Ward*
Patricia Watson
Barb and Dave Werner
Kelly and John Whalen
Sara and John Whalen
Shawnie Williams*
Sharon Zindars

Friends ($5-$24)
Lisa Aarli and Gail Owens
Bill Bright
Tim Cordon
Chris Dankmeyer
Mary and Gary Dobbs
Eric Howland and Julianna Shauli
Tim Kehl
Pat Kippert
Jason Murcko
Colleen O’Hara
Roy Schenk
Judith Taylor
Jeanie Verschay

Grants
Alison Brooks Charitable Fund
City of Madison Emerging
Opportunities Program
The Evjue Foundation, Inc.
Racine Dominican Mission Fund
Sinsinawa Dominican Ministry Fund

*Indicates donation in honor of the wedding of Alison Brooks and John Mix
MOSES takes action on social justice public policy issues, especially mass incarceration in Wisconsin. Through education MOSES helps communities better understand the issues that affect their lives.

One MOSES participant recently wrote: “The criminal justice issues that MOSES is dealing with are so very complicated, that I feel they are far beyond my poor mind to get a hold of.”

Do each of us at times feel overwhelmed as we learn about the many aspects of the criminal justice system? YES! It has become obvious, that so much needs to change, if we are to create a culture in which there is fairness, not only for victims of crime, but also for those who may need to turn their lives around — not just by being locked in cages for long periods of time.

People come to MOSES to better understand these issues that are affecting their lives and participate in transformative justice. MOSES is poised to educate ourselves and others so that actions on behalf of transformation will be sustainable and changes will arise. Much of our general meeting time, which is held on the first Saturday of each month, is used to educate ourselves about the criminal punishment system. This year, MOSES hosted three community conversations that educated not only our members, but also the general public.

First, we hosted the Preschool to Prison Pipeline Conversation, through the work of the Communication Committee and the commNS of UW Center for Community and nonprofit studies. The result was a panel discussion facilitated by Kristin Forde from the Center for Children and Families, with Pam Oliver, UW-Madison, Professor of Sociology; Donna Hart-Tervalon, contributing author of Courageous Conversations and retired Consultant for the Department of Public Instruction; Caliph Mauab-El, Co-Founder of Breaking Barriers Mentoring/Executive Coordinator of Voices Beyond Bars and formerly incarcerated individual and Deb Anderson, current MMSC teacher at the Metro Madison School. The event, which took place at the Central Library, on March 10, was designed to begin to unravel the intricate complexities, and seemingly unbiased policies, that results in a system that sets children of color up for failure.

Through the panel, participants experienced the role early education may play in the damaged lives of people who have ended up in the prison system. Some were then able to talk about their own experience both as children and in prison. Hearts ached for the children and heads sought answers for how schools and other educational institutes could change to make a more positive impact.

Next we hosted, Mariposa and the Saint: From Solitary Confinement, a play through letters, written by Julia Steele Allen, an award-winning playwright and activist, who brings to life the true story of a woman locked in solitary confinement for nearly three years, through her own letters. The play was hosted in conjunction with WISDOM and EXPO in April of this year.

Audiences met Mariposa (a nickname given to her for her butterfly tattoo), a woman in a solitary cell in California through Allen, who brought the play to
Wisconsin from New York, after meeting Mariposa while taking testimony for a class action suit in California. Because Allen brought Mariposa to audiences through the words of Mariposa, herself, those who attended could not help but feel Mariposa’s presence. Afterwards, there was an opportunity to dialogue with Mariposa who asked the audience, if you were suddenly ripped from your world with nothing and no one, what would you miss?

What would you miss? Walks in the park, holding a loved one’s hand, seeing children? Many wrote to Mariposa in the days following. She receives two to three post cards a day.

During the discussions on solitary confinement, an EXPO member told of his friendship with a fly who was the only living being in his solitary cell. Those who saw the play and heard the story of the fly now know in their bones that solitary confinement beyond 15 days is torture, which is something also publicly acknowledged by the United Nations. MOSES members stand in solidarity with those protesting various forms of isolation in Wisconsin prisons.

Mariposa and the Saint, a play about solitary confinement written by Julia Steele Allen was performed in Madison and across the country.
In addition, the MOSES Religious Leader Caucus organized and hosted the **Restorative Justice, Accountability and Community event**. The panel brought together five individuals involved in the county restorative justice program, Jonathan Scharrer, Director of the Restorative Justice Project, Frank J. Remington Center, UW-Madison Law School; Ron Johnson, Coordinator, Dane County Community Restorative Court; David Raasch, Member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans and former Chief Judge of the Mohican Nation Tribal Court (Retired); Ismael Ozanne, Dane County District Attorney and Shelia Stubbs, Dane County Board of Supervisors, District 23. Joan Duerst, OP, Chair of MOSES Religious Leaders Caucus acted as the moderator. The event took place on May 17, and was co-sponsored by the Prison Ministry Project, 1st Congregational United Church of Christ; Madison Area Urban Ministry; YWCA; Wisconsin Council of Churches and the local chapter of the NAACP. The community was invited to come out and discuss how restorative justice is a delicate balance between respecting the victim, encouraging community safety and supporting the lives of previously incarcerated individuals and their families.

"Restorative Justice is a delicate balance between respecting the victim, encouraging community safety and supporting the lives of previously incarcerated individuals and their families."

— Ismael Ozanne
justice practices and programs could change the current penal systems we have in place.

Each of these programs was well attended and provided time for community members to discuss points of criminal justice with scholars and practitioners. All panelists told stories of compassion and healing that come from restorative justice practices. Participants were encouraged to contact their county supervisors in support of restorative justice and to volunteer to be in peace making circles for the young adult program or for a parallel program for high school students. In the community conversation stories we were told how well the programs had worked for both peace keeper and responders. Others asked questions. The panel was very moving to all. Now it is reported that the Dane County pilot program will be expanded to surrounding areas. The school program, which is facilitated by Eugenia Highland at the YWCA, will have served over 2000 students to date.

Each of these presentations included persons who have personally experienced the criminal justice system, a format which has proven to engage the audience and facilitate learning that is not only known in the head, but also felt in the heart. This practice informs us what is needed to transform ourselves and our communities into a culture of justice.
Justice System Reform Work Continues

The MOSES Jail Task Force was renamed to reflect a broader scope. The current name is the “MOSES Justice System Reform Initiative.” It is not just about the jail since achieving comprehensive change and improvement require all parts of the justice system to be involved.

During the summer of 2015, MOSES actively participated in the three work groups that were established by County Resolution #556 (see page 18). This resolution was supported by MOSES and calls for the reform of Dane County’s criminal justice system. The work groups came up with 31 recommendations, which were submitted to the Dane County Board. One of the continuing roles of the MOSES Justice System Reform Initiative has been to encourage the County to implement these recommendations and to have input into how they are implemented. MOSES members do this through regularly attending and giving testimony at the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee (PP&J) and the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) County meetings where the recommendations are discussed. MOSES members also continue to meet with representatives of individual parts of the County criminal justice system, for instance, by having regular meetings with jail personnel and the Clerk of Courts.

Although change can seem slow, there has been progress. Dane County has hired a data analyst to focus on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The County also took action on two major areas: one was to commission another study to make recommendations for increasing jail safety and, the other was to commission a work group that would focus on exploring diversion programs.

MOSES is supportive of the need to address dangerous conditions in the jail, we also remain strongly committed to implementing strategies that address racial and ethnic disparities, increase diversion, and more effectively address mental health issues. MOSES requested and was granted a representative on the Diversion Work Group.

The Diversion Work Group met from February 2016 through July 2016. Paul Saeman participated as the MOSES representative and was able to articulate and advocate for
many of the diversion strategies that MOSES has long supported. Other participants included individuals who are, or were, a part of the criminal justice system, or are, in organizations that serve individuals who are affected by our current penal system.

Simultaneously, Mead and Hunt, the company hired by the County to create a multi-part study of the Dane County jail, released their report, which included several recommendations from the Diversion Work Group. Because of their work the PP&J Committee decided to abandon the City County Building (CCB) portion of the jail, and instead, make $4 million in safety improvements, while the replacement for the CCB is being built. While supportive of these improvements, MOSES remains committed to initiatives that will reduce the number of individuals who are incarcerated.

The next part of the jail study will provide several options for the replacement of the CCB. It will also include a prediction of the potential impact of diversion programs with an estimate of the future jail population.

MOSES will focus on cost, size, location, population projection, and the impact on County resources. MOSES will be keenly interested in whether the County continues its commitment to increase diversions, address racial disparities, and implement strategies to keep individuals with mental illness out of the criminal justice system.

In August, the Diversion Work Group submitted its report to the PP&J Committee with 22 recommendations. While acknowledging that many good programs already exist, the work group focused on the many areas that still need to be implemented, expanded, and improved. The top eight recommendations were identified and included the development of a short-term crisis/stabilization program (restoration center). The top-priority, county-wide expansion of the Community Restorative Court was recently announced as moving forward. It is important to emphasize that all of the Diversion Work Group recommendations are consistent with County Resolution #556 goals and principles. MOSES can continue to play an important role by advocating for County adoption of the recommendations.

The MOSES Justice System Reform Initiative meets on a regular basis and welcomes members who are interested in participating. We anticipate the need to continue and have a variety of ways that individuals can participate.

Continued on page 13
Prison Prevention Work Group Focusing on TAD

“ROC-Wisconsin, Restore Our Communities Beyond 11 x 15,” is WISDOM’s campaign to restore Wisconsin communities by addressing the racial and economic inequities that underlie mass incarceration, reducing our prison population by half, and removing barriers that stand in the way of the full restoration of formerly incarcerated people to community and civic life. (For more detail on ROC Wisconsin, please see pp. 28-29.) All around the state, WISDOM affiliates are working to change laws and policies, and also to change the attitudes of our fellow Wisconsinites towards their neighbors with conviction histories. One of the ways that members of WISDOM affiliates are able to join together to advocate for change is through statewide work groups, which usually meet via conference call, and are organized around ROC Wisconsin’s goals. MOSES members are active in all of these work groups. Here we highlight the Prison Prevention Work Group, and its current focus on Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD).

The Prison Prevention Work Group is a merger of three of the “11x15” Task Forces: Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), Sentencing, and “17-Year-Olds”, this last advocating the return of non-violent first-time 17-year-old offenders to the juvenile justice system via “Second Chance” bills. The Work Group sought to advance the latest Second Chance Bill (SB 280/AB 378), but unfortunately that bill died in committee, despite having widespread bipartisan support among lawmakers.

For most of the year, the primary focus of the Work Group has been on TAD; most recently, on laying the groundwork to advocate for an increase in TAD funding in the state’s next biennial budget. Restoring safer and healthier communities is an overall goal of WISDOM’s “Restore Our Communities (ROC) Wisconsin” campaign, and WISDOM and its affiliates have successfully advocated for increased state funding for TAD programs in previous budgets; as public health issues, substance abuse and mental illness are definitely not best addressed through incarceration. Studies show that treatment and diversion are more effective than incarceration in reducing crime and recidivism, and are also less costly. Counties receive TAD funding from the state for Drug, Veteran’s, Family Dependency, and OWI (drunk driving) courts, as well as other treatment and diversion programs.

Beginning in August, Work Group members across the state met with county leaders to gather information on the scope and effectiveness of current TAD programs, and to

Studies show that treatment and diversion are more effective than incarceration in reducing crime and recidivism, and are also less costly.
collect their ideas for future TAD programs if funding is increased. Information was also gathered on potentially allocating some TAD funding based on County need. Separate Dane County meetings were held with Sharon Corrigan, Chair of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, and Jeff Kostelic, assistant to County Executive Joe Parisi. Using this county input, the Work Group developed a concise position paper on the need to significantly increase TAD funding, and to expand eligibility criteria for admission to TAD-funded programs. This paper has been presented to the state Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and will be shared with legislators and others. We are committed to meeting with our state legislators, seeking support from county leaders, and working for an increase in TAD funding in the 2015-2017 state budget.

Continued Reentry and Probation

which is something that I hesitate to mention because it seems like an unintentional, yet damaging aspect of our current programming policies. While the offenders are mostly male and a great portion of them young black males, the probation officers are mostly young females. This creates this strange dynamic between the offender and their agents, like the agents are all second mothers. Some of these young women do what they can to be fair and do their job but some of them clearly enjoy having plenary power over virtually aspect of a man’s life. I have met all kinds of agents. I find it troubling that these two groups of people, the offenders and their agents, tend to have such different lived experiences, that it is problematic that one group should have so much power over the other, especially with such vast differences existing in their respective realities.

And, in addition, if you include the heroin/opioid epidemic that’s killing a lot of people you have a dangerous stage set, that gets in the way of the community giving offenders the benefit of the doubt, which is something they so badly need when they are reentering after periods of incarceration.

Unfortunately fixing the flaws in the probationary system involves massive resources that the community just doesn’t want to give. It also involves radical changes in other systems like education, mental health and transportation.

but emphasize, particularly to the ones who have addiction problems, that they can in fact change their lives. Sometimes, I break anonymity and tell them a little of my own addiction struggles, how I drove a cab for 15 years while mostly living in my mother’s basement and didn’t even go to law school until I was 40. The reality I feel with clients like these, is that it’s only blind luck that I’m not in the orange jumpsuit just like them. Through this, I have had some really powerful and meaningful moments, where it seems that my clients appreciate knowing that I’m a struggling human being just like they are and not just part of the people-moving system. It is all that I can do.

— Defense Attorney

Dane County
MOSES Wishes to Acknowledge:

Ron Johnson
Coordinator, Community Restorative Court of Dane County

Ron Johnson, coordinator of the Community Restorative Court [CRC] of Dane County is this year’s MOSES awardee for excellent work to change the narrative of the criminal justice system in Wisconsin. The mission of CRC is to: Repair Harm, Reduce Risk and Rebuild!

In November 2016 the Dane County Board voted to expand the pilot program CRC of the South Madison district to serve all of Dane County. It has only been two years since the press conference at Villager Mall, when county officials introduced Johnson to Madison as their choice to manage a bold new program for restorative justice. Johnson, who is from Milwaukee, taught and also served as principal at an experimental, racially integrated middle school. He directed Milwaukee Youth Opportunities Collaborative, a gang prevention and intervention organization, and founded the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s Project Ujima, a program aimed at preventing youth violence. Johnson heard about Dane County’s search from Jonathon Scharrer, a restorative law professor at University of Wisconsin School of Law, after being a guest lecturer in Jonathon’s law class at UW. “It was the right time for me,” says Johnson. “The stars aligned—I knew it was time for a change.” It all fit with Johnson’s love of young people, especially some who may have had “little crooked places” in their lives. Johnson cares about changing the criminal justice system, “which,” he says “is racist and upside down. We do not need mass incarceration; many do not have to be locked up.”

“Johnson was an outstanding applicant and turned out to be the one to give us direction,” recalls Captain Joe Balles, the head of South Madison Police District at the time. “Ron showed us what restorative justice is. He eats and breathes the stuff. Dane County couldn’t have been luckier. Ron was the missing piece. Ron is rewriting and retelling the story of troubled youth. We don’t have any throw away kids.”

Johnson credits Justice Janine Geske, of Marquette Law School, for shaping his understanding of restorative justice. She confirmed for him what he was already doing in Milwaukee’s, Safe Streets Initiatives.

Balles recently retired his position with Madison Police and has trained to be a peacemaker in CRC. He had the same experience of being in a circle with men in prison that Geske had led. “It is not safe for men in prison to cry, but Geske created the environment in which some of those men actually cried as they remembered the abuse they experienced as children.”

The CRC is primarily aimed at young first time offenders who face municipal ordinance violations or misdemeanor charges for five specific offenses: battery, theft, disorderly conduct, obstruction and damage to property. An offer is made by the police to refer the person to the CRC. If the person completes the CRC program, no charge is made by the police. Part of the program is to meet with a circle of citizens, trained peace makers, and to do community service.

“A circle is an amazing display of humanity,” Johnson is known to say. “It’s basically a conversation. We talk about not only the issue of the crime, but about the people involved and their history and what brought them to this point in their lives. It’s an atmosphere that is conducive to people opening up and going deep.”

The county board decision to expand Johnson’s program into the rest of Dane County was impacted not only by the success of the pilot program, (50 respondents and only one who did not complete the program) but also by the recommendation of the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee Diversion Work Group, in September 2016, of which MOSES members, Paul Seaman and Reverend Joe Baring are official members.
The group recommended, as follows: increasing the county-wide reach of the Community Restorative Court to efficiently and effectively address the number and range of offenses committed by 17-25 years olds, as well as, further development of the processes that can expedite the referral of individuals to the CRC by law enforcement.

County Supervisor, Sheila Stubbs has advocated for the program from the beginning. Supervisor Stubbs, who represents the district where the court has operated the past two years says, “You can make a mistake at 18, 19, 20 years old, pay the price, and years later it’s still on your record making it hard for you to get a job or to move on with your life. The Community Restorative Court lets the community do what it has to do to deal with the crime, but without letting it hang over people for years. It’s just like in a family or a friendship—you do something wrong, you make it right.”

In November 2016, Johnson invited the 40 peacemakers of the CRC to a celebration of their success. Johnson acknowledged all the peacemakers and some were individually awarded for their outstanding work and insights. Each of the awardees in turn also praised Johnson for his work and the magic way he has brought law enforcement, district attorney’s office, community members and young offenders (called responders in the program) together.

Many members of MOSES have trained to be peacemakers and were delighted to be at the event.

Another aspect of Johnson's life is his membership in the National Story Tellers Guild. Johnson is a volunteer story teller at the library and at Madison schools where he also participates in volunteer restorative justice activities. So, it was fitting that the celebration began with Johnson telling the story of the King caught in a bubble:

A magician encircled a king in a giant bubble. At first the king enjoyed playing in the bubble, but when he wanted to get out he found it impossible to break. So, he called for the swordsman, the strong man, the archers etc., but nothing would burst the bubble. Finally, a little girl offered to help. At first the king rebuffed her offer, but then thought it wouldn’t hurt to give it a try. The little girl approached the bubble, gave it a big kiss, and the bubble burst and freed the king.

Of course, Johnson told the story with great drama and then concluded: The moral of the story is that you don’t need a sledge hammer to kill a fly on a glass table. Likewise, to make a difference in the life of young people who commit a misdemeanor, one needs only to realize that they are human and may need much loving support, as well as a challenge to not harm others, themselves and the community.

Thanks Ron, for showing the way of restorative justice to Madison. Thanks for telling the story.
MOSES Wishes to Acknowledge:

Paul Saeman
MOSES Member

Saeman’s impact on Dane County’s Justice system did not start with the 2014 proposal to build a new jail, but that proposal started a remarkable series of contributions.

This year MOSES would like to recognize the outstanding work of one of its members, Paul Saeman. Saeman represented MOSES on the Dane County Diversions [from jail] Workgroup and on countless other MOSES and public committee meetings, public presentations and behind-the-scenes gatherings.

Saeman’s impact on Dane County’s justice system did not start with the 2014 proposal to build a new jail, but that proposal started a remarkable series of contributions. He worked with MOSES task forces and supportive county supervisors to write a response to that proposal, which became Resolution #556 (see page 18). Among other suggestions, he contributed a set of guiding principles, which begins with, “Racial equity will be achieved across the entire criminal justice system,” and ends with “Dane County shall have a safe and secure environment for those incarcerated.”

Resolution #556 also set up three community-based workgroups, named “Length of Stay,” “Alternatives to Arrest and Incarceration,” and “Mental Health, Solitary Confinement and Incarceration.” Saeman worked with the MOSES support teams influencing those workgroups. He wrote many of the 31 recommendations that were adopted in the three workgroups’ final report.

In 2016, the County Executive formed another workgroup specifically focused on how to divert people from the Dane County jail. Saeman was appointed to this newly formed Diversions Workgroup. Saeman not only represented MOSES to the Work Group, but also was part of MOSES support teams and authored 12 written recommendations. Again, most of his recommendations were included. Several of these recommendations are being implemented in the Dane County Budget as we go to press.

Saeman was also instrumental in the Hoover Family Foundation’s [HFF] initiative to develop training for a large number of volunteers who work at the Dane County Job Center, the Deferred Prosecution Unit, Ferris Center, the local State Parole office, and St. Vincent de Paul. These volunteers assist individuals returning to the community from incarceration to access benefits and services for themselves and their families.

Saeman’s MOSES and HFF contributions also converge in the public policy area. He worked closely with MOSES task forces on a large number of policy papers, including those regarding the Restoration Center, text message notifications of upcoming court dates, and many other innovative approaches and reforms of the criminal justice system.

Saeman also does extensive work as a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul, including service on the youth group and other committees. Saeman and his wife, Mary, are leaders in a St. Vincent’s partner churches program, which meets with families and assists in their needs for household furnishings and other crisis services.

Thank you Paul, for your contributions, for your insights, and your perseverance. Many people worked to make MOSES successful this year, but without your work, we would have made far less impact!
County Resolution 556

County Resolution 556 established three criminal justice work groups: Alternatives to Arrest and Incarceration; Length of Stay; and Mental Health, Solitary Confinement, and Incarceration. These groups met in the summer of 2015 and developed 31 recommendations. One of these recommendations resulted in a fourth work group, Diversion, which met during 2016 and developed 21 additional recommendations.

MOSES strongly supports the recommendations of these four work groups. In addition to incorporating input from the community, the recommendations are also consistent with the following MOSES goals.

MOSES seeks to promote an equitable and accountable justice system that will:
- stop sending people to jail who do not need to be there and end racial and ethnic disparities;
- treat people in jail humanely without the use of solitary confinement and with timely release;
- keep people from needlessly returning to jail by providing needed re-entry services and by ending crimeless revocations;
- and operate with data to provide transparency, accountability, and continuous on-going evaluation.

Work Group Recommendations

Alternatives to Arrest and Incarceration:
Dane County has many alternatives to incarceration that, for some, have proven to be effective. However, participation by people of color in alternatives is minimal. Alternatives include: deferred prosecution (including the first offender program); electronic monitoring; treatment alternatives, and an acknowledgment that eligibility criteria need to be evaluated, modified, and/or developed to ensure equitable access; and use of alternatives to incarceration, including use of evidence based decision making through a racial equity lens.

Length of Stay:
Initiatives that decrease the average length of stay post-booking for those incarcerated in Dane County Jail, with the goal of diverting people from incarceration. This includes but is not limited to: weekend arraignment court; signature bonds; deferred prosecution; full-scale pre-trial services program; policies relating to probation and parole holds; alternative to bail programs, expanding the current Bail Monitoring Program; and expanding home detention (electronic monitoring) as
allowed by state statute, to people who do not qualify for other pre-trial jail diversion programs.

Additionally, the work group shall recommend changes in policies and procedures to reduce racial disparities in participation in bail monitoring, home detention, and work/study release (Huber) programs. The work group shall also investigate what can be done to expedite the release of people alleged to have violated Department of Corrections community supervision (probation, extended supervision, parole). All recommendations will focus on improving racial equity and equitable access for those unable to pay fees.

Mental Health, Solitary Confinement and Incarceration:
A mental health toolkit or mental health court to support Dane County’s Circuit Court judges. This includes but is not limited to: determining what charges/offenses to be considered; screening tools or assessment to determine placement; options of treatments/services need to be available (especially for individuals without health insurance); and whether it should be a stand-alone court or toolkit integrated into all criminal courtrooms.

One or more stand-alone community-based facilities, potentially based on a crisis intervention or restoration center model, that serves individuals with: 1) mental health needs and who are not incarcerated by the Sheriff, 2) mental health needs and who are in police custody and need an alternative to jail placement, and 3) mental health needs and who are in the Sheriff’s custody. Recommendations should reflect existing mental health and substance abuse diversion resources and needs in Dane County as well as identified gaps in our community-based mental health and substance abuse services systems. As part of a potential facility, investigate a mental health crisis intervention field team that can be available to all Dane County law enforcement, fire, and emergency entities, 24 hours a day.

Eliminating or greatly reducing the use of solitary confinement. This includes but is not limited to: policy and practice changes recommended by workgroups, particularly around addressing racial disparities in solitary confinement; creating mental health, medical, special needs or other space options that provide for those incarcerated with medical and mental health needs; and creating strategies to eliminate de facto solitary confinement conditions when there are low numbers of incarcerated youth. Additionally, investigating the impact of solitary confinement in any form on incarcerated people, and particularly people with mental illness or people of color, whether it is used due to space needs or as a tool for changing behavior. This includes, but is not limited to: the long-term outcome of solitary confinement in behavior management; the effects of solitary confinement on recidivism; alternative tools to solitary confinement to address various situations that keep the safety of the incarcerated people, deputy and larger jail community in mind.

Diversion:
Diverting incarcerated people from incarceration by seeking options outside of the traditional justice system. Recommendations should be based on a review of existing diversion policies, prior recommendations, and current resources, particularly for African-American and community-of-color led services. Areas for review include but are not limited to: community restorative courts, restorative justice practices, allowing for a continuum of services for individuals needing more or less support; creating Day Reporting Centers as part of these facilities; prioritizing diversion of youthful offenders; creating restorative justice programs for all individuals charged with non-felony crimes or who would otherwise qualify for minimum-security placement or work-study release, and co-locating alternatives to incarceration programs within one or more “one-stop shopping” facilities. There also must be an investigation of what policies could be implemented to encourage police and law enforcement to send and/or refer people directly to services and programs instead of committing people into jail, whether referring people to services reduces recidivism more than jail, and what services, especially African-American and community-of-color led services, already exist (or could be created given a critical mass of future referrals) that could be housed in such facilities.

This investigation shall include options for both adults and juveniles.

All four criminal justice workgroups noted severe gaps in data and analysis that need to be resolved as soon as possible. Dane County leaders have taken immediate action by hiring a data analyst who will increase the County’s capacity to collect, monitor, analyze, and produce data disaggregated by race, gender, and ethnicity.
Annual Picnic

On August 27, 2016, MOSES members gathered at the Red Riley Barn in Verona, WI to celebrate the years achievements. They were joined by the Madison Area Drum Circle Group, the Raging Grannies and heard several inspiring testimonials regarding the experiences of previously incarcerated individuals. It was a relaxing and inspiring day for all.

The event was a success thanks to the efforts of many: Carolyn Bradt, The Madison Area Drum Circle Group, The Raging Grannies, Tom and Jan Gilbert, Carl Fields, Mark Rice, James Morgan, Frank Davis, Jeanie Verschay, Eric Howland and Julianna Shauli, Carol Rubin, Rain Zephyr and Cynthia Roskowic, Talib Akbar, Joan Duerst, Alison and John Mix, Mary Mushholt, Deanna Grahn, Renée Gregory and everyone who contributed and attended.
Addiction continued

Ultimately I was eligible for drug court, a year long program, which I finished in six months. Faster than anyone ever. In the back of my mind, I wanted everything over with so I could use again. What kept me clean for the first year was that I did not want to go back to jail. One month after drug court however, I relapsed, which lasted for two more years. I am clean now because of methadone, which was 100% voluntary. I made the decision to get clean on my own and it has been two and a half years since I’ve used. My body is still dependant on methadone and while on it, I can’t relapse and don’t even crave or think about opiates. I am tapering my dose, but it will probably still be more than two years before I am off of it completely.

And of course, I struggle a lot now because of being an addict and having a felony on my record, even though it was dismissed. People see the charges and automatically assume that I am still using. I have had trouble maintaining employment. Earlier this year I was hired by a large company in Madison and was getting amazing performance reviews. I loved my work. I was told that I would be receiving a promotion and that I just needed to get government clearance because of the sensitivity of the work. Instead, my supervisor told me curtly, that I had failed to pass the government clearance and was being dismissed. In addition I have had difficulty finding decent housing that will take me on. Even though I make more than enough money to pay for the apartment, landlords look at my poor credit history and won’t take a chance on me. The repercussions of my addiction are something that I deal with every single day and I probably always will.

Rachel
Young Madison Professional
EXPO (EX-Prisoners Organizing) emerged in 2014 when formerly incarcerated people from around Wisconsin began to gather to discuss what it would look like to have our own statewide organization. Previously imprisoned women and men lead EXPO. Our members provide support to each other and organized to transform Wisconsin’s unjust penal system and eliminate structural discrimination against people with conviction records. We receive support from family members of currently and formerly incarcerated people and allies who have not experienced incarceration. EXPO is a project of WISDOM. EXPO provides leadership training to previously imprisoned people who want to become part of the movement for change. Around 150 people have participated in EXPO training programs.

2016 has been a productive and busy year for EXPO. We have had chapters in Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire since 2014. Membership in these three chapters expanded rapidly in 2016 with new EXPO chapters emerging in the Fox Cities, Green Bay, Wausau, and Superior. We have also begun to develop new chapters in Waukesha County, Racine, and Kenosha.

There were approximately 40 EXPO members who attended a presidential candidate forum in Des Moines, Iowa in January 2016. EXPO leaders Mark Rice and William Harrell helped to facilitate a workshop on mass incarceration before the forum began. Presidential candidates Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders attended the forum. Hillary Clinton was invited but did not attend the event. EXPO leader Jerome Dillard was part of a panel that asked Bernie Sanders questions. Jerome asked Sanders if he would ban the box for federal contractors within the first 100 days of his presidency if elected. Sanders said that he would and went on to speak about the importance of expanding voting rights for previously imprisoned people.

In 2016, EXPO organized to:
• end the overuse of solitary confinement in Wisconsin prisons;
• end the practice of incarcerating people for crimeless revocations;
• ensure that people eligible for parole receive fair hearings;
• expand transitional jobs;
• expand eligibility for expungements;
• ban the box statewide; and
• ensure that all people in Wisconsin prisons have access to clean water.

EXPO members participated in numerous forums and rallies in 2016. At listening sessions in Madison in February and in Milwaukee in August, several EXPO leaders shared powerful stories regarding their experiences with solitary confinement, crimeless revocations, and contaminated water in Wisconsin prisons. Several EXPO leaders participated in rallies in Madison and Milwaukee to support people in Wisconsin prisons, who participated in a food refusal action in order to protest the Department of Corrections’ overuse of solitary confinement. In June, EXPO of Milwaukee held its first ever community forum at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society in Milwaukee. This event featured a panel discussion facilitated by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist James Causey. Nearly 200 people attended this event. EXPO of Madison held its first ever community forum in July. This event also included a panel discussion featuring EXPO members. Over 100 people attended this event. The Eau Claire EXPO chapter had its first major event in November. Nearly 100 people attended their screening of the documentary, 53206 Milwaukee. In October, MOSES lead organizer and EXPO member Frank Davis, EXPO member Shanyeill McCloud, and EXPO member William Harrell were panelists at an EXPO/WISDOM/MOSES forum on reducing barriers to successful reentry.

In 2016, EXPO statewide organizers Jerome Dillard and Mark Rice served as members of an advisory committee that guided a crimeless revocations health impact assessment in Wisconsin. The health impact assessment examined how Wisconsin’s overuse of incarceration for rule violations that do not involve new crimes affects the health of individuals, families, and communities. At least 50 EXPO members from across the state, who have been directly impacted by this issue participated in focus groups for this study. The final report was released in December, 2016.

In November 2016, EXPO released a book entitled “Incarcerated Without Conviction: The Abuse of Revocation in Wisconsin” during an event in Milwaukee. This book features the stories of numerous EXPO leaders who have been incarcerated for crimeless revocations. During the event ten
EXPO leaders who have been directly impacted by crimeless revocation shared powerful testimonies.

In 2016, EXPO statewide lead organizer Jerome Dillard was selected to be a member of a Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee that examined ways to reduce recidivism and barriers to employment for people with conviction and arrest records. Several EXPO leaders testified in front of this committee on October 19. We urged the members of the committee to make bold recommendations in several policy areas.

In November, EXPO statewide organizer Mark Rice was selected to participate in JustLeadershipUSA’s (JLUSA) annual yearlong “Leading with Conviction” (LwC) leadership development program. LwC is rooted in the principle that the most compelling advocates for criminal and juvenile justice reform, are those who have been directly impacted by mass incarceration. JustLeadershipUSA’s leadership development program is an intensive and dynamic cohort-based program designed to enhance the professional capacity of its participants. Each cohort consists of formerly incarcerated individuals with an already established leadership track record in their own communities. Over the course of one year, participants receive executive coaching, as well as training in community-building, policy advocacy and communications. We plan to send at least one EXPO member to this program in subsequent years.

In addition to having a dynamic first year, EXPO is growing and Sarah Ferber joined the EXPO staff as a part-time Chippewa Valley EXPO organizer in November.

The work of EXPO has been recognized by numerous news outlets. In 2016, EXPO leaders made appearances on NBC 26, Milwaukee Public Radio, Riverwest Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio, and RT America. Numerous news outlets published stories regarding EXPO in 2016 including Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, 608 Magazine, the Milwaukee Courier, the Capitol Times, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the Daily Kos.
This year MOSES worked with several other advocacy groups to raise awareness about the terrible realities of solitary confinement. Talib Akbar, MOSES Vice President and EXPO leader, helped coordinate and participate in the prison food refusal action aptly titled, Dying to Live. The campaign focused on protesting against the Wisconsin Department of Corrections prolonged use of solitary confinement or administrative confinement (as the DOC prefers to call it, due to the stigma that the term solitary confinement has garnered). Several prisoners at Green Bay, Waupun, and Columbia Correctional Institutions participated in a food refusal action to illustrate the horrors of solitary confinement and raise awareness to the general public about the realities of being penalized in the prison system. During the food refusal, correctional officers engaged in retaliatory acts against prisoners who choose to participate by force-feeding them. Force feeding is a very dangerous endeavor with many serious outcomes. The food refusal action lasted several weeks and generated a great deal of attention to the lives of prisoners in the State of Wisconsin and solitary confinement in particular.

Another project of the Solitary Confinement Work Group was helped along by Reverend Jerry Hancock, the director of the Prison Ministry Project, who paid for the storage upkeep, management and transportation of the solitary confinement cell that goes out to various locations throughout the state including Green Bay and Appleton. This fall, Talib Akbar and Frank Davis, MOSES lead organizer, spoke with East High School students, welcoming them to participate in understanding what prison is like. The students were given the opportunity to listen, review clothes worn in prison, to go inside the cell and ask questions after they had reviewed the cell inside.

The solitary confinement cell was also set up in Milwaukee Wisconsin at the Archdiocese for 13 days. The cell has been visited by thousands of people and there are plans to keep having the cell hosted at various venues to keep raising awareness to the realities of solitary confinement.

The Solitary Confinement Group has been active in telephone conferences once a month, keeping our members and others interested in what is happening, and what progress we are making towards ending solitary confinement in the State of Wisconsin.
The solitary confinement cell on display at Edgewood College this year.
WISDOM is a network of congregation-based community organizations, or affiliates, working to live out their values in the world. WISDOM and its affiliates advocate for systemic and smaller scale change, addressing issues like criminal justice and immigration reform and public transit both locally and statewide.

WISDOM’s oldest member organization, MICAH, was founded in Milwaukee in 1988. Other WISDOM affiliates around the state include:

- RIC (Racine County)
- CUSH (Kenosha County)
- SOPHIA (Waukesha County)
- ESTHER (Fox Cities & Oshkosh)
- JOSHUA (Green Bay & Brown County)
- NAOMI (Wausau area)
- JOB (Beloit area)
- JONAH (Eau Claire area)
- RUTH (Manitowoc)
- MOSES (Madison area)

Each local affiliate is represented at WISDOM’s decision-making table. Like all affiliates, MOSES is a 501(c)3 organization, so donations to MOSES are tax deductible. And MOSES, like the other affiliates, does not endorse candidates or get involved in partisan politics; we believe in the need to hold public officials accountable, no matter what party they represent.
WISDOM Prophetic Declaration

We are people of faith united by our passion for justice, commitment to community and a practice of hope. We stand together understanding that our lives and destinies are intertwined.

• We come together because God calls us into relationship with one another, with our communities and with the world around us.
• We come together from across the state, across faith traditions, across race, class, gender and ethnicity, and across many divides that might ordinarily keep us apart.
• We come together around core faith convictions that affirm our direction and shape our vision for the future.
• We come together to act for justice, build power and to transform our communities, cities and state.

We stand together in our faith:

• We believe in the God-given dignity and infinite worth of each and every human life.
• We believe that we are each and all part of a sacred community, to which we have responsibility and from which we gain sustenance.
• We believe that our faith calls us to work for justice and liberation, standing against all forms of oppression and inequity.
• We believe we are called to be stewards of the natural world in all its bounty and diversity.
• We believe in shared abundance and stand against the dominant culture of reckless consumption and consumerism for some and deprivation for others.
• We believe in the triumph of love and hope over hate and fear.

We build power and act together, drawing courage and inspiration from our faith. We believe God has called us to live, speak and act courageously in accordance with our faith beliefs. Together we will create the community we seek for ourselves, but also build the power we need to transform the world around us. We will build the relationships and strategic capacity we need to powerfully engage and impact public decisions.

Together we declare:
Where there is division, we declare unity.
Where there is hatred, we declare love.
Where there is lack, we declare abundance.
Where there is desolation, we declare renewal.
Where there is discouragement, we declare hope.
Where there is lack of strength, we declare power!

For more information on WISDOM, contact David Liners: (414) 736-2099 or davidl_wisdom@sbcglobal.net
The Principle Aims of ROC Wisconsin

1. To address the issues of racial and economic inequity that underlie mass incarceration; mass incarceration exists in a context. The criminal justice system is linked to systems of education, health care delivery, housing, job access, policing, and every manifestation of structural racism. We will continue to focus on specific issues within the criminal justice system, but we recognize that many other efforts need to be made by us and by other people of good will to address a myriad of other social injustices.

2. To reduce Wisconsin’s prison population by half; if anything, this goal is too modest. Wisconsin has far too many people in its jails and prisons, and it keeps people locked up for far too long. ROC Wisconsin believes the state could safely reduce its prison population to 11,000 in a fairly short time.

3. To change the way that Wisconsinites view people convicted of crimes, so they are considered as human beings, members of families and assets to the community; as we change laws and policies, we need to change attitudes. This call for a change in attitude is rooted both in our spiritual beliefs about people and the practical need for all of us to live together.

4. To remove barriers to the full restoration of formerly-incarcerated people to the economy, to communities and to civic life.

Our society claims to believe in second chances. Our goal should be to help people with conviction histories to move as quickly as possible back into work, to decent housing, higher education and the right to vote.

Three Ways to Reduce Mass Incarceration in Wisconsin in 2017

1. Cut down the number of people we send to prison. Despite some progress, Wisconsin still invests far too little in Treatment Alternatives and Diversions, meaning that many people who could be diverted from jail or prison just can’t get into the available programs. The ROC Wisconsin campaign is calling for the state to increase TAD funding by at least $15 million/year, to expand eligibility requirements for the program, and to target increases to communities with the highest incarceration rates.

2. Grant parole for eligible “Old Law” prisoners. Wisconsin still has nearly 3,000 prisoners who were sentenced in the last century and are eligible for parole. Many of them have been incarcerated for much longer than the sentencing judge envisioned. But, the parole system has become slower and slower in the years since “Truth in Sentencing” became the law of the state. If the Administration made a decision to expedite the parole process for low-risk, parole-eligible prisoners, it could make an immediate dent in the prison population.

3. Stop re-incarcerating people who have not been convicted of a new crime. Nearly 40% of Wisconsin’s prison admissions each year are for crimeless revocations. People who have completed prison time and are on extended supervision are often sent back to prison for failure to comply with a rule of supervision (which can range from a failed drug test to leaving the county without permission, to missing appointments). The average crimeless revocation is for 18 months. 3,000 people are incarcerated without new conviction this way every year, meaning that an any given time, 4,500 of the people in our state prisons are there for crimeless revocations. Other states have seriously cut back on this practice, and Wisconsin can do the same.
Five Things You Can Do

1. **Keep yourself informed:** Be sure to get on the MOSES and WISDOM mailing lists at [www.rocwisconsin.org](http://www.rocwisconsin.org). Pay attention to the news. Talk with your friends and neighbors. Citizens need to pay attention and care about criminal justice policy if it is to be reformed.

2. **Take part in an action:** MOSES and WISDOM often organize forums, presence at hearings, and other actions. The 2017 Madison Action Day will be on March 30. Come to these events to learn, to meet others who share your concerns, and to add your voice to the call for justice.

3. **Join a workgroup:** There are workgroups of people who organize the MOSES and WISDOM responses to the issues outlined above, as well as many others. Many of them meet by conference call. Pick an area of interest, and help lead the effort!

4. **Make a donation:** MOSES and WISDOM need money to keep staff employed, to train leaders, to pay for materials and actions.

5. **Pray:** The effort we are undertaking is much bigger than we are. Pray that our efforts might be multiplied, and pray that our efforts might help to bring forth the kind of world of compassion and mercy that the Creator wants for us.
In spring of 2016, the Legislature authorized the Legislative Council to establish a Legislative Study Committee on Recidivism and Impediments to Post-Release Employment, to meet monthly from July through December, 2016. Its purpose was to review effective strategies and best practices for reducing recidivism, to investigate earned time credits, explore impediments to employment and other collateral consequences of conviction.

The MOSES members of the WISDOM Post-Release Task Force took the lead in monitoring and seeking to influence this Committee. The Committee, co-chaired by Senator Alberta Darling and Representative Rob Hutton, included 3 Republican legislators and 3 Democratic legislators. Of more importance, it included 10 informed community members from across the State, many of whom were open to significant criminal justice reforms.

The Post-Release Taskforce began monitoring the monthly, six hour hearings and reading the numerous submissions. In October, several members drafted a position paper for WISDOM responding to proposals made thus far, and urging bold action such as a state-wide Ban the Box Legislation, and implementation of short-term sanctions for crimeless revocation. The WISDOM position paper also included a national analysis showing that Wisconsin is almost last in criminal justice reform compared to other states. WISDOM and MOSES representatives held a public forum in Madison on October 19th, and testified before the Legislative Study Committee in October.

The Committee agreed to recommend a few incremental changes. Despite the deep interest of the public members to continue work on larger changes, the co-chairs appeared to want to end the Committee’s activities early.
WISDOM and Immigration

As a member of Gamaliel (WISDOM’s national organization); WISDOM has agreed that part of the GAMALIEL mission and vision of inclusiveness, is to provide opportunities to the most vulnerable individuals in our areas. The immigrant community in Wisconsin certainly fits that description, as demonstrated by the labor abuse, racial profiling, and blatant discrimination pitted against them. Fear of deportation, even though many immigrants have lived here for decades, makes families live under long shadows. The dominant narrative portrays the immigrant community as a burden to society, even though it is well documented that it is quite the opposite, and economic contributions far exceed the economic cost of services they receive.

This year, WISDOM has adopted immigration as a major issue and currently many of the WISDOM affiliates have followed suit and started task forces. Throughout the State, they have worked on educating their communities by developing power point presentations and presenting them in an attempt to change the pervasive narrative on immigration. They were strong supporters of the Driver’s Card for undocumented individuals movement and worked hand-in-hand with Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, to introduce legislation and educate the public about how driver’s cards for undocumented individuals would make communities safer, as well as having an economic impact that would benefit the state. Unfortunately not a single Republican was in favor of this and the bill did not get past the legislative committee.

Earlier this year WISDOM was instrumental in working to get immigrants to the state capitol during the “Day Without Latinos” in which people were bussed in from all over the State to protest against the anti-immigrant Bills AB450 and SB533. Over 50,000 people showed up at the capitol, and the bills were subsequently never introduced to the floor for a vote.

WISDOM has a state wide conference call every month in which anyone is welcome to participate or learn what statewide activities are going on to help advance the GAMALIEL agenda with regards to immigration reform and opportunities for immigrants. WISDOM has also started a Spanish training throughout Wisconsin, in order to recruit immigrant leaders to start chapters and become more involved in the decision-making efforts to advance our goal of creating a more equitable society for all. ■
SPONSOR ADS:

Access Midwifery 39
Alliance Benefit Group 38
Buttonwood Partners, Inc. 40
Call to Action Madison 36
Chris Taylor 34
Culvers (Beltsline) 39
Culvers (Cottage Grove) 41
Dorothy Krause 42
Ella's Deli 39
First Unitarian Society 45
Forward Community Investments 39
Heidi Wegleitner 38
Holy Wisdom Monastery 43
Insights with Dick Goldberg 34
Integrity/Dignity-Madison 35
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation 46
Jeff Scott Olson Law Firm 40
John Mix 49
Lake Edge Lutheran Church 46
Linda Hancock Calligraphy 44
Madison Jail Ministry 45
Madison Mental Health Services 41
McHugh Family Dentistry 44
Meicher CPAs 44
Memorial United Church of Christ 41
Moving & Hauling Services 38
Oak Park Place 43
“The Place Where Love Lives” 45
Plymouth United Church of Christ 35
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society 35
Prison Ministry Project 33
Racine Dominicans 36
Regent Market Co-op 38
St. John's Lutheran Church 42
Satara Home & Baby 37
Sinsinawa Dominicans 37
Society of St Vincent de Paul-Madison 35
SuperCharge! Foods 41
TeachingBooks.net 45
Underdawg Law  Back cover
Unity of Madison 39
Warren Family Dental 40
Wussow Chiropractic 42
Zion City International 34

Congratulations, MOSES

THE PRISON MINISTRY PROJECT

REV. JERRY L. HANCOCK, J.D., M.Div. DIRECTOR
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
1609 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, MADISON, WI 53726
jhancock@firstcongmadison.org
INSIGHTS with DICK GOLDBERG

30 minute informative and fascinating podcasts on psychology, social justice and economics. Featuring longtime former PBS-TV and WI Public Radio host Dick Goldberg. Topics include:

- **Sex Offender Registries** with Wesley G. Jennings
- **Re-Entry After Incarceration** with Jerome Dillard and Linda Ketcham
- **White Privilege** with Harold Gates and Michael Schuler
- Plus over 100 more...

DickGoldbergRadio.com
or subscribe with iTunes or Stitcher Radio

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

— Fredrick Douglass
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

♦ Food Pantry
   (Customer-choice model – eligibility every 30 days)
♦ Vinny’s Lockers
   (Goods/documents storage for those without a home)
♦ Charitable Pharmacy
   (For persons without current access to insurance)

Helping Our Neighbors In Need
2033 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison
608.257.0919 • www.svdpmadison.org

Please call before visiting.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society supports the work of MOSES.
CONGRATULATIONS on this FOURTH ANNIVERSARY!

We invite you to our services, every Sunday morning at 10:00
at 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison 53711.
Visit our website at UUPrairie.org to learn about our services and activities.
We’ll welcome you!

Integrity/Dignity-Madison
Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual
All Are Welcome

Since 1977

Integrity/Dignity of Madison supports the work of “Moses”.
“All Are Welcome” Check out the following websites:

http://www.idmadison.org  DignityUSA National  IntegrityUSA National

www.mosesmadison.org

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
CELEBRATING FAITH AND LOVE WITHOUT BARRIERS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: 9:30AM
PASTOR LESLIE SCHENK

Wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

2401 ATWOOD AVE. MADISON, WI
WWW.PCUCC.ORG - 608.249.1537
THANK YOU MOSES

for your social justice initiatives and educational programs relating to:
• reducing **recidivism**
• ending **mass incarceration**
• ending **solitary confinement**
• ending **racial disparities** in the criminal justice system
• **banning the box**
• removing **impediments to employment**
• **advocacy and training**
• **community building**

THANK YOU for being committed to truth and compelled to justice!

And sponsored ministries

* Siena Retreat Center * St. Catherine’s High School
* Senior Companion Program * HOPES Center
* Bethany Apartments * Eco-Justice Center

---

**CALL TO ACTION**

**Inspire Catholics, Transform Church**

**Madison area, Inc.**

* Working together to foster Peace and Justice*

* In our world, our church and ourselves.*

**Activities in which we participate:**

• We do this through prayer, study, action and community experience. Our hope is to see our church live more fully the Beatitudes which reflect the dream of Jesus for those who follow the Gospel way.
• We study contemporary theology, share our faith.
• We take action when we perceive injustice, exclusivity or a lack of accountability in our local church.
• We have chosen in recent planning to focus on Care for Earth, “our common home” (Pope Francis).
• We work with Moses to reduce prison population, 350.org, anti-racism programs, Benedictine Women of Madison (an Ecumenical Faith Community) and others that share the vision of a holy and just world.

*We welcome you to join us—so that together we can co-create the change we want to see in ourselves, our faith tradition and our world.*

[cta-usa.org/webloc](http://cta-usa.org/webloc)  [www.ctamadison.org/webloc](http://www.ctamadison.org/webloc)  [calltoactionmadison@gmail.com](mailto:calltoactionmadison@gmail.com)
It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.

— James A. Baldwin
On the County Board, Heidi is a strong voice for: community control of the police; reducing the jail population and opposing construction of a new jail; and redirecting funding from law enforcement and incarceration to human services, community development, and affordable and accessible housing.

In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.

—Thurgood Marshall
We are spiritually led, celebrating peace, love, and abundance for all.

Sunday Services: 8:30 & 10:30 am
601 Tompkins Dr., Madison, WI 53716
608-221-1376
www.unityofmadison.org

A positive path for spiritual living

“We are spiritually led, celebrating peace, love, and abundance for all.”

601 Tompkins Dr., Madison, WI 53716
608-221-1376
www.unityofmadison.org

Access Midwifery, LLC
Providing prenatal and home birth midwifery care
Tehmina Islam, CPM, LM
46 Lakewood Gardens
Madison, WI 53704
608-251-0776
accessmidwiferywi.org
accessmidwiferywi@gmail.com
The Most Important Thing We Do
Is Take Care Of You!
Accepting New Patients

Satisfying All Of Your Dental Needs
Root Canals • Tooth Extractions
Veneers • Dentures • Teeth Whitening
Periodontal (gum) Care
Implants • Invisalign

EMERGENCIES WELCOME
www.WarrenFamilyDental.com

Buttonwood Partners, Inc.

Contact us for your
Investment needs!

701 Deming Way, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 827-6411
www.ButtonwoodPartnersInc.com

We are proud to support the work of “Moses”

THE JEFF SCOTT OLSON LAW FIRM, S. C.

Attorney Jeff Scott Olson
Attorney Andrea J. Farrell
Trial Consultant Sarah Furey Crandall

Recovering damages for violations
of civil and constitutional rights
for 40 years.

131 West Wilson Street, Suite 1200
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3225
Phone: 608 283 6001
E-Mail: jolson@scofflaw.com
Website: www.scofflaw.com
Standing with MOSES.

Following Jesus, who came “to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to the captives... to let the oppressed go free.”

Reaching out in ever-widening circles as witnesses of God’s all-inclusive love.

5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg WI + www.memorialucc.org

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples to build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

— Robert F. Kennedy
“The Savior of the world is not crucified by criminals or obviously evil people; he is crucified with criminals by the princes of this world.”

Reinhold Niebuhr in Beyond Tragedy, 1937.

St John’s Lutheran Church, Madison
www.stjohnsmadison.org

After only a few treatments - I was pain free!
I have resumed my exercise program and can run a 5K with ease. – Ann S.

In life, pain is inevitable but suffering is optional. Find out how we can help you at Wussow Chiropractic. Call (608) 833-1114 or visit us at wussowchiropractic.com

Dr. Brian Wussow
Dr. Ingrid Recnik
8434 Old Sauk Rd
Middleton, WI 53562

608.833.1114
www.wussowchiropractic.com
Holy Wisdom Monastery

prayer • hospitality • justice • care for the earth • community

The Sunday Assembly worshipping community at Holy Wisdom Monastery supports MOSES

Holy Wisdom Monastery is...

...spiritual | home to Benedictine Women of Madison, North America's first monastic community welcoming single women of any Christian tradition and a spiritual resource for all

...environmental | one of the “greenest” LEED certified buildings in the country featuring geothermal heating and cooling, bamboo floors, green roofs, natural lighting, water conservation and more

...open to all | public Sunday worship at 9:00 am, daily prayer, group and individual retreats, meetings, nature walks, weddings, tours...

...local | 4200 County Road M, Middleton, WI, 20 minutes from downtown Madison, 608-836-1631

Visit today or learn more at www.benedictinewomen.org

Our Stars Shine Brightest Together

At Oak Park Place, we believe that sharing our GIFTS every day is the best way to keep our community strong. We thank everyone who is a vital part of Oak Park Place—residents, family members, team members, volunteers, friends and neighbors—for enhancing our lives and the lives of those around us.

Together, our stars shine brightest.

www.oakparkplace.com • 718 Jupiter Drive, Madison, WI • 608.663.8600
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2146 E. Johnson Street • Madison, WI 53704
Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.
jruuc.org • 608-242-8887

McHUGH FAMILY DENTISTRY

Thomas W. McHugh D.D.S.
6660 University Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562

Office Hours by Appointment
831-6595

MeicherCPAs

2349 Deming Way, Suite 300
Middleton, WI 53562

608-826-1900
info@MeicherCPAs.com
Visit us online at www.MeicherCPAs.com
Imagine a world of compassion...

The Place
Where Love Lives
A children’s book for everyone

by Tina Hogle
Available at Amazon

Hope and Healing for
People in Jail

Madison Area
Jail Ministry

a ministry of presence

Thank you, MOSES!

Books change lives — so does MOSES!

See: http://TeachingBooks.net/MOSES

together

we seek to be a force for
good in this world.

join us.

www.mosesmadison.org 45
“For freedom Christ has set us free.”

*Galations 5:1*

**Congratulations to MOSES,**
**as you continue to fight the good fight of freedom for all.**

4032 Monona Dr., Madison, WI 53716 • (608) 222-7339 • lelc.org

**Special thanks to all of the contributors** who worked on the 2016 annual yearbook. Without your tireless efforts and dedication, this publication would not have been possible.

In no particular order, thank you very much to: Ann Lacy, Talib Akbar, Mark Hoover, Bernie Gonzalez, David Liners, Jason Murko, Carol Rubin, Joan Duerst, Karen Julesberg, Paul Saeman, and Eric Howland.

Printing by Wells Print and Digital Services.

*Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*

— Harriet Tubman
EXPO is a group of formerly incarcerated people who help lead WISDOM’s ROC (Restoring Our Communities) Campaign to end mass incarceration.

EXPO believes that all people with conviction and arrest records should be viewed as human beings, members of families, and assets to communities.

We believe that the people closest to the problems are closest to the solutions. Our motto is “you have the right NOT to remain silent”.

EXPO provides a vehicle through which people with conviction and arrest histories can combine our voices, knowledge, and power to be effective advocates for serious reform of our unjust penal system.

You can get involved by:

• Joining a local EXPO Chapter
• Participating in an EXPO leadership development program
• Asking an EXPO leader to give a presentation to your organization

Follow us on:
Twitter: @WisconsinEXPO
Facebook: @expowisconsin

To get involved or learn more:
www.rocwisconsin.org
414-831-2070

WISDOM/EXPO
2821 N. 4th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
ROC Wisconsin Prayer

God of healing and restoration, we pray:

For all who are caught up in the criminal justice system, those in our jails and prisons, and for their families, that they will know healing and restoration;

For those with the difficult duties of corrections officers and parole officers, that they will be able to be agents of healing and restoration;

For political leaders and all citizens, that they will demand and create a just, humane criminal justice system. God of all, restore our people and restore our communities.
Art and Soul Workshops to welcome your creativity and soften your inner critic

20% of sales mentioning this ad is given to MOSES to continue its work calling for reform of the criminal justice system in Wisconsin.

John Mix
Oil and Pastel Paintings

608.622.2477
johnmixblog.wordpress.com
johnhmix@gmail.com
Charged with a crime?
Just take some time.
Get out of your fog.
Call the Underdawg.

(608) 441-3232