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THEY HAVE A DREAM...

Though their hunger strike has ended, 3 NC women promise to continue their efforts to bring attention to the struggles of undocumented children and their families – page 2

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Hunger Striking for the American Dream

By Jeff Shaw — Justice Center Director of Communications

The hunger strike in downtown Raleigh in support of the DREAM Act ended on June 28 after one of the strikers had to be hospitalized. Although Sen. Kay Hagan refused to become a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act legislation, the strikers and their supporters promise to continue their efforts to bring attention to the struggles of undocumented children and their families.

(RALEIGH – June 25, 2010) On the corner of Wilmington and Lane, three young women are fighting for the American dream—theirs and those of others.

Viridiana Martinez, Rosario Lopez and Loida Silva are going without food while camping in downtown Raleigh to draw attention to the DREAM Act, a piece of federal legislation that would bring badly needed common sense to a part of immigration policy. Their hunger strike aims to generate awareness and support for the bill, particularly from North Carolina’s Sen. Kay Hagan.



More than three-million students graduate from U.S. high schools every year. Most get the chance to pursue opportunity. However, a group of approximately 65,000 youth have their options constrained due to undocumented status.

These youth—like the three women on a hunger strike now—have lived in the United States for most of their lives. They want more than anything to be recognized as Americans and to help build a better future for everyone here.

“We just want to work hard and contribute to society,” says Rosario, who has earned an undergraduate degree in biology from UNC and wants to go on to complete a PhD.

The DREAM Act—which stands for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act—would recognize that commitment.

The law would put four strict requirements in place: a person must have entered the country before the age of 16, graduated high school or obtained a GED, have good moral character with no criminal record, and have at least five years of continuous presence in the United States.

If someone meets those criteria, the DREAM Act would provide a six-year window for them to either obtain a two-year college degree or complete two years of military



service. If all of these conditions are met, the person would have the opportunity to adjust their conditional permanent residency status to U.S. citizenship.

A key target for DREAM Act backers, here and nationwide, is Sen. Kay Hagan. All three hunger strikers are asking Sen. Hagan to join in as a sponsor of the bill. On Tuesday, June 22, after having not eaten for more than one week, they held a rally outside Sen. Hagan’s Raleigh office.

“We need Sen. Hagan to take a stand on this issue,” says Viridiana.

Senator Hagan would be the fortieth Senate co-sponsor of the DREAM Act, passing a major milestone on

the way toward passage. As of this writing, the Hagan camp has been circumspect. Sen. Hagan’s office issued a statement saying that the DREAM Act “should be considered in the context of comprehensive immigration reform,” but did not take an explicit position on the bill itself.

The strikers say they will go without food indefinitely, continuing to sleep in three tents in a small park surrounded by state government office buildings. They are visited by volunteers and supporters.

To build a stronger America, we need Americans who have a commitment to education and public service. The three women going without food indefinitely have already proven to have those qualities. The DREAM Act would just give them a well-deserved path to citizenship.

Learn more about the hunger strikers and the DREAM Act at ncdreamteam.wordpress.com.

Huelga de Hambre por el Sueño Americano

Por Jeff Shaw — Director de Comunicaciones, Centro de Justicia

En la esquina de las calles Wilmington y Lane, hay tres mujeres jóvenes luchando por el sueño Americano —los sueños suyos, y los de otros.

Viridiana Martinez, Rosario Lopez y Loida Silva han dejado de comer mientras acampan en el centro de Raleigh para llamar atención al “DREAM Act,” un proyecto legislativo que traería el sentido común necesario a

política de inmigración en este país. Su huelga de hambre tiene el objetivo de aumentar el nivel de conciencia y apoyo para el proyecto, especialmente de la Senadora Kay Hagan.

Más de tres millones de estudiantes se gradúan de las escuelas secundarias cada año en los EE.UU. La mayoría tiene la oportunidad de perseguir oportunidades. Sin embargo, un grupo de aproximadamente 65,000 jóvenes tienen sus opciones restringidas debido a tener estatus de indocumentados.

Estos jóvenes—Así como las tres mujeres que están en huelga de hambre—han vivido en los EE.UU. la mayoría

de sus vidas. Más que nada quieren ser reconocidos como americanos, y ayudar a construir un futuro mejor para todos aquí.

“Sólo queremos trabajar y contribuir a la sociedad,” dice Rosario, quien se ha ganado su diplomatura en biología de UNC y quiere llegar a obtener su doctorado.

El DREAM Act —cual significa Desarrollo, Alivio y Educación para Extranjeros Menores (llamada “DREAM” por sus siglas en inglés), reconocería esa dedicación.

La ley impondría cuatro requisitos estrictos: una persona debe haber entrado al país antes de cumplir los 16

Losing Local Talent Because of the Broken Immigration System

by Graig Meyer — Coordinator of the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

A senior at one of our local high schools recently visited my office at the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program. She had a 4.2 GPA with loads of honors and Advanced Placement courses under her belt. She had college acceptances and full-ride scholarship offers at Elon University and the University of Colorado. She is an impressive, confident young woman who has worked hard to be successful. It seems like she is living the American Dream.

This young woman was seeking advice on where to enroll in college. With the scholarship offers she had at Elon and Colorado, you may be surprised to hear that she is most likely to enroll at McGill University in Montreal or the American University in Paris. Neither of those schools has offered her the same financial aid.

Why is she likely to attend college abroad? Because she is undocumented.

This young woman, whom some would call an illegal immigrant, is among our community's most distinguished students. Although she is of Mexican birth and descent, no immigration officer would ever suspect her of being undocumented by her appearance or accent.

She is likely to leave the United States for college for three reasons. The first is that she is afraid of being deported. Second, she is concerned that even when she finishes college, she will not be able

to work legally in the United States. Third, Canada and France are much easier places for her to gain legal residency status than the United States.

Does it make sense for our country to lose talented young people like her because of a broken immigration system? She doesn't want to leave. But she has to make a choice before school starts in August. Should she stay in this country she knows and loves, hoping for immigration reform but risking deportation. Or should she move to a country that will greet and support her, but where she will know no one and have to learn another new culture?

If she pursues her American Dream at Elon, she would have to live in Alamance County, which has an active 287(g) law-enforcement program that regularly deports people like her. In Colorado, she would be in a state that is currently considering bills similar to Arizona's anti-immigrant laws.

Our nation's broken immigration system is taking its toll on students like this, right here in the Triangle. Please call upon our representatives in Congress to support the DREAM Act and comprehensive immigration reform to help students like this one stay and contribute to this country they love.

For more information, visit www.adelantenc.org.

Perdiendo el Talento Local A Causa del Sistema Roto de Inmigración

Por Graig Meyer — Coordinador del Programa Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate de Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Últimamente, una estudiante del último curso en unos de nuestros colegios locales me visitó en mi oficina del Programa Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate. Tenía un 4.2 GPA con un montón de honores y clases avanzadas (AP) completadas. La aceptaron varias universidades y la Universidad de Elon y la Universidad de Colorado le ofrecieron una beca completa. Es una joven impresionante, segura de sí misma que ha trabajado duro para tener éxito. Parece que vive el Sueño Americano.

Esta joven buscaba consejo acerca de dónde matricularse. Con las becas de Elon y Colorado, a lo mejor te sorprende que probablemente se matricula en McGill University en Montreal o la Universidad Americana en París. Ninguna de estas dos le ofrecieron el mismo apoyo financiero.

¿Por qué va a asistir a la universidad en el extranjero? Porque es indocumentada.

Esta joven, a quien le ponen el nombre "inmigrante ilegal," es uno de los estudiantes más distinguidos de nuestra comunidad. Aunque su nacimiento y patrimonio es mexicano, ningún oficial de la migra sospecharía que sea indocumentada por causa de su aspecto o acento.

Probablemente va a la universidad fuera de los EE.UU. por tres razones. Primero, tiene miedo de ser deportado.

Segundo, se preocupa que aun cuando se gradúe no podrá trabajar legalmente en los EE.UU. Tercero, es más fácil ganar la residencia legal en Francia o Canadá.

¿Tiene sentido que nuestro país esta perdiendo los jóvenes de talento como ella por causa del sistema roto de inmigración? Ella no quiere irse. Pero tiene que tomar la decisión antes de que comiencen las clases en agosto. ¿Debería quedarse aquí en este país que conoce y quiere, esperando la reforma y corriendo el riesgo de ser deportado? ¿O debería moverse a otro país lo cual la aceptará y le dará la bienvenida dónde no conoce a nadie y no conoce la cultura?

Si sigue el Sueño Americano en Elon, vivirá en el Condado de Alamance, que tiene el programa 287(g) que regularmente deporta a las personas como ella. En Colorado, estaría en un estado que considera unas propuestas parecidas a la ley de Arizona.

Nuestro sistema roto de inmigración agobia a los estudiantes aquí en el Triángulo. Favor de llamar a sus representantes en el Congreso y decirles que apoyen la reforma migratoria integral y el DREAM Act para que los estudiantes como esta puedan quedarse y contribuirse al país que quieren.

Para más información, visite al www.adelantenc.org.

años, graduarse de una escuela secundaria o obtener un "GED," tener buen carácter moral sin antecedentes penales, y tener por lo menos cinco años de presencia continua en los EE.UU.

Si una persona cumple con esos criterios, el DREAM Act le proveería un periodo de seis años para obtener una diplomatura universitaria o cumplir con dos años de servicio militar. Si cumple con todos los requisitos, la persona tendría la oportunidad de arreglar su estatus de residencia permanente condicional a la ciudadanía.

La gente que apoya el DREAM Act aquí y en todo el país está intentando captar el voto de la Senadora Kay Hagan. Las tres mujeres involucradas en la huelga de hambre están pidiendo que la Senadora Hagan se junte como

proponente del proyecto legislativo. El martes, 22 de junio, después de no comer por más de una semana, organizaron una reunión afuera de la oficina de Senadora Hagan en Raleigh.

"Necesitamos que la Senadora Hagan adopte una postura en este asunto," dice Viridiana.

Senadora Hagan sería el proponente cuadragésimo para el DREAM Act en el Senado, lo que sería un éxito mayor en el camino a la aprobación del proyecto. Hasta ahora, la oficina de la Senadora Hagan ha estado callada. Su oficina hizo una declaración diciendo que el DREAM Act "debe ser considerado en el contexto de la reforma migratoria integral," pero no adoptó una posición sobre este proyecto legislativo en específico.

Las huelguistas dicen que van a seguir sin comida por un tiempo indefinido, y que continuarán durmiendo en tres carpas en un parque pequeño rodeado de edificios gubernamentales. Ellas son visitadas por voluntarios y gente que las apoyan.

Para construir una América más fuerte, necesitamos americanos los quienes tengan dedicación a la educación y al servicio público. Las tres mujeres pasando sin comida indefinidamente ya han probado tener esas cualidades. El DREAM Act sólo les daría un camino bien merecido a la ciudadanía.

Para aprender más sobre las huelguistas de hambre y el DREAM Act visita a: ncdreamteam.wordpress.com.

Civil-Rights Organizations Challenge Checkpoints Outside Church in Zebulon

Community churches are supposed to be safe havens for worshippers, not sites for police to target. But Latino churchgoers in eastern Wake County say police officers routinely set up illegal checkpoints outside their parish and even interrupt services.

In April, the NC Justice Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF), and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice launched an investigation into the practice of targeting Latino churchgoers by the Zebulon Police Department and the Wake County Sheriff's Office.

Congregants at the Iglesia de Dios "Catedral de Jesus" in Zebulon report that the town's police officers, with alleged participation by Wake County sheriff's deputies, have repeatedly posted license checkpoints outside the church during services. Members of the congregation report that police officers routinely "wave through" white and black drivers, stopping only those drivers who appear to be Latino. In addition, congregants say police officers have entered church property and interrupted services to harass members of the congregation seeking information. These scare tactics by police have caused a significant decrease in church attendance, as many congregants are afraid of being harassed by law enforcement.

"The reality is that these types of license checkpoints are often no more than covers for blatant racial and ethnic profiling of the Latino community," said Katy Parker, legal director of the ACLU-NCLF. "This includes those members of the community who are undocumented as well as those members who are American citizens and lawful permanent residents of

North Carolina."

The groups have filed a public-records request asking police to provide all documents related to license checkpoints, as well as all documents related to compliance with the North Carolina Racial Profiling Act. "Even though Arizona's outrageous new anti-

immigrant law has made national headlines, we see similar disastrous policies and practices here in North Carolina," said Dani Martinez-Moore of the NC Justice Center. "It's shameful that checkpoints are routinely set up in Latino neighborhoods and in front of churches where services are conducted in Spanish."

Desafían Retenes de Tráfico Fuera de una Iglesia en Zebulon

Las iglesias comunitarias deben ser lugares seguros para los fieles, no deben ser sitios donde concentran la policía. Pero practicantes latinos en la parte oriental del condado de Wake dicen que agentes de policía se hicieron una rutina de establecer retenes de tráfico fuera de su parroquia – hasta

investigación de la práctica de concentrar sus atenciones a practicantes latinos por El Departamento de Policía de Zebulon y La Oficina de los Diputados del Condado de Wake.

Los congregantes en la Iglesia de Dios "Catedral de Jesus" en Zebulon reportaron que la policía del pueblo, con la supuesta participación de los diputados de Wake, han puesto retenes de chequeo de licencias rutinarias fuera de la iglesia durante la misa. Miembros de la congregación dijeron que la policía regularmente dejan pasar los carros con gente de raza negra o blanca, y que sólo detienen aquellos que aparecen ser latinos. Además, los congregantes dicen que la policía ha entrado la iglesia y ha interrumpido la misa para acosar los practicantes en búsqueda de información. Estas tácticas para impartir miedo por la policía han causado una reducción en asistir la misa.

"En realidad, esos tipos de retenes de tráfico son nada más que una excusa para detener a gente sólo basado en su raza o etnicidad sospechosa – en blanco es la comunidad latina," dijo Katy Parker, la directora legal del ACLU-NCLF. "Incluye aquellos miembros de la comunidad quien son indocumentados además de los miembros quienes son ciudadanos americanos y residentes permanentes de Norte Carolina."

Esos grupos han presentado una petición para récords públicos pidiendo que la policía provee todos los documentos relacionados a los retenes de tráfico, y todos los documentos que pertenecen a la conformidad con la Ley el "North Carolina Racial Profiling Act" que prohíbe la detención de gente sólo por razones étnicas o raciales.

"Aunque la nueva ley escandalosa de Arizona ha sido publicado por medios nacionales, vemos otras prácticas y políticas muy semejantes aquí en Carolina del Norte," dijo Dani Martinez-Moore del Centro de Justicia. "Es una vergüenza que los retenes de tráfico son establecidos regularmente en los vecindarios latinos y en frente de iglesias donde la misa se conduce en español."



interrumpir la misa.

En abril, el Centro de Justicia, la Union de las Libertades Civiles Americanas de la Fundación Legal de Carolina del Norte (ACLU-NCLF son sus siglas en inglés), y la Coalición Sureña para la Justicia Social lanzaron una

NC Justice Center and ACLU File Suit Charging Discrimination against Female Workers

Three women are suing a seafood processing company for unlawfully restricting them to certain work solely because they are women.

The women were recruited in Mexico by Captain Charlie's Seafood, Inc. to process seafood in North Carolina. The company also recruited men and agreed to pay all of the workers the prevailing hourly wage for seafood processing. To bring the migrant workers to the United States as legal temporary workers, the seafood company was required to cover their travel and visa processing fees.

The lawsuit charges that the company underpaid the women, unlawfully failed to reimburse their travel costs and wrongfully fired them. The NC Justice Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the ACLU of



North Carolina Legal Foundation filed the lawsuit on behalf of the three women and other workers.

“The company restricted these women to certain types of jobs and limited the hours of work available to them simply because they are women,” said Ariela Migdal, staff attorney with the ACLU Women's Rights Project. “The women were qualified for the better jobs reserved for the men and entitled to an equal

opportunity to perform that work.”

Captain Charlie's restricted the women to picking crabs, a job that entails cleaning meat from cooked crabs, and offered them far fewer paid hours than it did

to the men. The men, in contrast, were given a variety of other jobs, such as cooking and carrying crabs and handling crab traps. At times, the women sat idly and watched in frustration as their male counterparts earned wages for work that both women and men are fully capable of performing.

“I was given different work and fewer hours just because I am a woman,” said Sandivel Villanueva Flores, one of the women represented in the case. “I don't think that's fair.”

Eventually, in August 2009, Captain Charlie's terminated approximately 20 women crab pickers but kept on male workers. The company also failed to reimburse the workers for their travel and visa expenses, as required under the visa program, and failed to pay the prevailing wage it had promised when recruiting them.

“Unfortunately, women seasonal workers are especially vulnerable to exploitation by their employers,” said Clermont Fraser, an attorney with the NC Justice Center. “Migrant workers face many difficulties for a variety of reasons like language barriers and racism, but women have the additional hurdle of sexism.”

The case is now in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

El Centro de Justicia de Carolina del Norte y la ACLU Demandaron Cargando Discriminación contra Trabajadoras

Tres mujeres están demandando a una compañía que procesa mariscos ilegalmente por restringirlas a ciertos trabajos solamente porque son mujeres.

Las mujeres fueron alistadas en México por Captain Charlie's Seafood, Inc. para procesar mariscos en Carolina del Norte. La compañía también alistó a hombres y acordó pagar el sueldo predominante a todos los trabajadores para procesar mariscos. Para traer a los trabajadores migrantes a los Estados Unidos como trabajadores temporarios legales, la compañía de mariscos fue requerida para cubrir los costos de su viaje y los honorarios para procesar sus visas.

El pleito alega que la compañía pagó muy mal a las mujeres, ilegalmente falló el reembolso de los costos de viaje e injustamente fueron despedidas. El Centro de Justicia de

Carolina del Norte, la ACLU (La Unión Americana por las Libertades Civiles), y el La Fundación Legal de la ACLU de Carolina del Norte comenzaron el pleito en nombre de las tres mujeres y otros trabajadores.

“La compañía restringió a estas mujeres a ciertos tipos de trabajos y limitó las horas de trabajo disponibles a ellas solamente porque son mujeres,” dijo Ariela Migdal, abogada con el Proyecto de Derechos de las Mujeres de la ACLU. “Las mujeres estaban calificadas para puestos mejores reservados para los hombres y tienen el derecho a tener una oportunidad igual para hacer este trabajo.”

Captain Charlie's restringió a las mujeres a recolectar los cangrejos, un trabajo en el que se necesita limpiar la carne de cangrejos cocinarlos, y les ofreció menos horas pagadas a las que

ofreció a los hombres. Los hombres, por contraste, se les fueron dadas una variedad de otros trabajos, como cocinar y llevar cangrejos y manejar las trampas de cangrejo. A veces, las mujeres se sentaron al lado y miraron con frustración cuando sus contrapartes masculinas ganaron los sueldos por trabajo que ambos mujeres y hombres son capaces de hacer.

“Se me dio un trabajo diferente y menos horas solamente porque soy una mujer,” dijo Sandivel Villanueva Flores, una de las mujeres representadas en el caso. “Yo no pienso que es justo.”

Eventualmente, en Agosto del 2009, Captain Charlie's despidió aproximadamente 20 recolectoras de cangrejos, pero se quedaron los trabajadores masculinos. La compañía también falló en reembolsar a las trabajadoras los costos relacionados a

sus viajes y sus visas, como es requerido bajo el programa para visas, y falló para pagar el sueldo predominante que les ha prometido cuando las alistó.

“Desafortunadamente, las trabajadoras temporales son especialmente vulnerables a la explotación por sus empleadores,” dijo Clermont Fraser, una abogada con el Centro de Justicia de Carolina del Norte. “Trabajadores migrantes encuentran muchas dificultades a causa de una variedad de razones como barreras lingüísticas y el racismo, pero mujeres tienen un obstáculo adicional que es el sexismo.”

Ahora este caso está en el tribunal de Distrito Estadounidense para el Distrito del Este de Carolina del Norte.

Creating Jobs in North Carolina: The Federal Government's Help is Essential

By Diane Morris — Justice Center Senior Editor, and Alexandra Forter Sirota — Budget & Tax Center Policy Analyst

John Stewart's story is a familiar one in North Carolina.

"I was laid off in February 2009, so, over a year now," said Stewart of Cleveland, NC, at Governor Bev Perdue's Jobs Summit in April. He said that since then, he's lost his health benefits and seen his unemployment benefits shrink.

"My wife has a terminal disease that is going to take her life," Stewart told the crowd of nearly 100 policymakers and concerned citizens. "The prescriptions are just outrageous -- \$1200 or \$1300 for prescriptions when you take home from unemployment about that much a month. So, you mortgage and sell and move around whatever you have until you're broke."

North Carolina's unemployment rate was 10.3% in May – down from earlier in the year. But still, close to half a million people in North Carolina are officially out of work, and that does not include those who have given up looking for work. Unemployment is significantly lower in Wake County (8.0%) and Durham County (7.5%), but in Rowan County, where Stewart lives, it's higher than the state average at 11.8%.

Governor Perdue and numerous state legislators attended the jobs summit, and the Justice Center and the NC NAACP presented them with a list of measures the state could enact to put North Carolinians back to work. Advocates for working families hoped state leaders would implement programs that provide grants and other incentives to businesses that create new jobs or save current ones. Unfortunately, when it came time to put together the state budget, the General Assembly went with the same old, ineffective tactic it had used in the past – providing tax giveaways to businesses.



provide money to states, local governments, and community-based organizations to hire people to meet the many growing needs of neighborhoods.

These federal dollars would meet crucial community needs – like ensuring that police, firefighters, teachers and other public servants keep their jobs. In addition, expanding the capacity of community-based organizations

would enable them to address the struggles of their clients. We've heard the reports of food banks and other community aid groups running out of supplies and not having enough staff to assist all of the people in need. The Local Jobs for America Act would help to bridge those gaps.

A Congressional report estimates the funds could create or save more than 18,000 jobs in North Carolina in the first year. In addition, separate funding targeted at schools could create or save an estimated 7,419 jobs in education.

The funding would go out based on a formula that takes into account unemployment and poverty rates as well as population. As a result, the funds will target the disparity in employment between white workers and African-America workers, given that African-Americans are more likely to live in poverty, be unemployed and work in government.

The current focus in Congress on cutting

spending to reduce the deficit is misguided. Job creation has to be the government's top priority if the nation's economy is ever to pick up some momentum and start chugging along again. And there are hundreds of thousands of people in North Carolina who could use the help.

Alexandra Forter Sirota

joined the Justice Center's Budget and Tax Center as a public policy analyst in April 2010. Previously, Alexandra coordinated research on child well-being and policy analysis on family economic security at Action for Children North

Carolina. She has a broad range of experience at non-profit organizations and government agencies both in the United States and abroad in the areas of human rights, asset-building policy, community development and anti-poverty programs. Alexandra has a bachelor's degree from Haverford College in Pennsylvania and a joint master's degree from the University of Chicago.



Sister Attracta Kelly Moves on to Higher Calling



For more than a decade, Sister Attracta Kelly served as North Carolina's most effective and important advocate on behalf of low-income immigrants. As director of the Justice Center's Immigrants Legal Assistance Project (ILAP), she provided representation to thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and other immigrants in desperate

straits.

Now she is moving on to what is truly a higher calling. Earlier this year, her fellow sisters of the Adrian Dominican order elected Sister Kelly to a six-year term as prioress, the highest post in this international congregation. In May, she stepped down as ILAP director so she could move to the order's headquarters in Michigan, where she will be installed in as prioress this month.

A Remarkable Life of Service

Sister Attracta Kelly is a native of Ireland and a Catholic nun of the Adrian Dominican order who came to the United States in the 1960s to work as school teacher and principal in a number of southern states. In the 1980s, while serving as part of the order's administrative team in Michigan, she became involved in helping Guatemalans and Salvadorans fleeing violence and oppression in their home

countries. That's when she decided becoming an attorney would enable her to do a great deal more to help such people. She earned her law degree from Catholic University of America in 1996 and then spent a year with Legal Services in Washington, D.C. and two years with Jesuit Refugee Services in Dublin, Ireland.

In November 1999, Attracta joined the Justice Center as director of the Immigrants Legal Assistance Project, and she quickly established ILAP as the place in North Carolina where low-income immigrants could find meaningful help with immigration law matters. She provided high-quality, passionate and remarkably effective representation to hundreds of low-income immigrants – including people fleeing persecution, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes, and many, many others who desperately needed help to protect their families.



Farewell to an Exceptional Co-worker, Friend and Advocate

“During her tenure at the Justice Center, Attracta did not just provide incredibly effective legal

representation for some of North Carolina's most vulnerable residents seeking to establish their right to live in the United States,” said Bill Rowe, the Justice Center's General Counsel and long-time co-worker of Sister Kelly. “She also helped develop and support a network of immigrant advocates, grassroots groups and faith organizations across North Carolina. She mentored, taught and created the next generation of attorneys and advocates to carry on her work. Thanks to Attracta's efforts, ILAP has a truly committed and high-quality staff that is unmatched in its expertise and passion for their work.”

Sister Attracta Kelly's dedication and wisdom had a tremendous impact on the Justice Center over the past decade. While we will miss her, we certainly understand why her fellow sisters would choose her as their leader. We leave with our love and respect, and we wish her all the best.



Winstona Cole joined the Justice Center in March 2010 as an immigration attorney with the Immigrants Legal Assistance Project. She had been an immigration attorney for the past eight years practicing in Maryland, Virginia and New York. She most recently worked for the International Rescue Committee in New York and the World Relief Corporation in Baltimore representing clients in immigration proceedings and overseeing and supporting a national staff of representatives providing immigration services. Winstona practiced law in Sierra Leone doing a broad range of legal work, including human rights law and practice, before coming to the United States.



Lucy Martinez joined the Justice Center as the Office Administrator in May 2010. Before joining the Justice Center, she worked for Wake County Human Services as an office manager at Cornerstone, a multi-service day center for people experiencing homelessness. Lucy is a graduate of Ohio State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology.



Seonaid Rijo Mackenzie joined the Justice Center in June 2010 as a bilingual (English/Spanish) litigation paralegal. Prior to coming to the Justice Center, Seonaid worked as an office manager and paralegal for a Miami law firm specializing in complex commercial litigation. She graduated from Northeastern University with a bachelor's degree in political science and minor in Russian language. She also has an artist diploma in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. During the course of her undergraduate studies, she worked as a part-time legal research assistant for the Human Rights Department at Harvard Law School. Seonaid obtained a paralegal certificate from the University of Miami in 2005.



Children's Mental Health Needs Going Unmet

By Vicki Smith — Executive Director, Disability Rights North Carolina

Imagine being angry all the time but not having the words to express it or the experience to understand it. Imagine being raped or beaten by an adult who is supposed to love and take care of you. Imagine being so traumatized by being the victim of violence – or watching it happen to another — that flashbacks are as commonplace as computer games. Imagine hearing voices in your head that tell you to do things that will get you in trouble at school. Imagine being so sad that you don't want to live into adulthood.

These are not imaginary stories. Sadly, hundreds of North Carolina children experience these feelings every day. Studies show that one out of every five children – as young as six years of age — living in North Carolina has a mental illness. According to national studies, only around half of the children who need mental health services actually receive them.

The symptoms of their illnesses are painful and severe. When untreated, mental health disorders lead to other problems - school failure, family conflicts, drug abuse, violence and suicide.

Services are Essential

Children with mental health needs who do not receive appropriate services



continue to struggle. They cannot function in the classroom. They cannot develop normal, healthy relationships. They become a danger to themselves or others. As a result, schools exclude them from the classroom - sometimes illegally. Children who are out of school place a strain on families that are already struggling to survive.

Here in the Tar Heel state, families are faced with a mental health service system that has been cut to the bone. While most children receive mental health services in a private residence, such as

their homes, a significant number of children still receive services in out-of-home settings. These include community residential homes, foster homes, correctional facilities (e.g. training schools), reeducation programs (e.g. Whitaker School) and state psychiatric hospitals.

Nationally, the percentage of children treated in out-of-home facilities has fallen – but not in North Carolina. In recent years, the state more than quadrupled the number of locked residential placements (private residential treatment facilities) from 117 in 2005 to 494 in March 2010.

A Plan for Better Care – But No Money

The state recently presented a plan that requires community-based services be tried before a more restrictive out-of-home

placement. This plan uses a model called the “System of Care,” which is built on the involvement of children and families. Each child receives an individualized treatment plan that meets the unique needs of the child and family, and the family receives assistance coordinating services from multiple providers.

Yet each of these provider systems is facing devastating budget cuts. The System of Care is a great model, but where are the funds to pay for the staff to implement it?

There is no denying the economic crisis that confronts the state, but cutting spending for mental health care for our children will only increase the pressure on an already strained system of care – resulting in more costly outcomes for everyone. There will be more emergency room visits, and the number of people in detention centers, prisons and foster care will grow.

North Carolina has both a legal and moral obligation to provide the basic needs to these most fragile children among us. As state leaders think about how to deal with the current financial crisis and plan for future budgets, they should remember that funding and implementing comprehensive mental-health services and supports will cost less in the long run.

Shining a Needed Light on Elder Abuse

By Richard Trottier — Legal Aid of North Carolina

The recent arrest and indictment of a Chapel Hill nurse on murder and other abuse charges resulting from her alleged mistreatment of nursing home patients brings to light a vexing and too often hidden problem: elder abuse.

Fittingly, June 15 marked the fifth observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day—an event that's intended to increase public awareness and understanding of a serious problem that affects many seniors in North Carolina, throughout the United States and the world.

Let's hope that it's even more successful than previous efforts in expanding awareness and saving and improving lives because, as events have again confirmed, the problem remains distressingly widespread.

Researchers believe that more than a half-million

seniors are abused in their homes in this country each year and that anywhere from two percent to as many as one-in-ten is abused in some way.

Of course in some respects, this is not surprising. As a person ages, his ability to care for himself diminishes. Diminished capacity in elders creates a vulnerability to exploitation and abuse—whether it's in the form of consumer and financial scams perpetrated by outside predators or, in cases like the one in Chapel Hill, caregivers themselves. Indeed, during the current economic downturn, there have been several instances in which children forced to return to their parents' home have wrongfully taken control of assets and income, and even physically abused the parent when they were confronted.

Elder abuse occurs in a variety of forms, but experts generally refer to seven: physical abuse,

emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, abandonment and self-neglect.

Interestingly, the most commonly occurring form is self-neglect. These cases occasionally draw public attention when local authorities must enter an elderly person's home because of complaints, only to discover such things as hoarding of various materials, neglected animals and/or other serious health problems.

Generally, however, the public pays more attention when there is some kind of high-profile case of financial exploitation, as occurred this year with wealthy socialite and philanthropist, Brooke Astor. Astor's son was convicted of taking millions of dollars while his mother relied upon him to manage her assets.

Though the dollar figures in this case were extraordinary, the Astor story is, in many respects, sadly

Health Reform: A Boon to North Carolina

By Adam Searing — Director of the NC Health Access Coalition

North Carolinians stand to benefit from national health reform in many ways. Thanks to the reform law passed early this year, numerous improvements are already in the works. Children under age 26 can stay on their parents' private health plans. Small businesses are exploring the thousands of dollars in tax credits available if they provide health coverage. A new federal "high-risk pool" will start on July 1, offering coverage to those who are uninsured and have pre-existing health conditions.

One of the most far-reaching changes for North Carolina won't go into effect until 2014, but it is already creating much comment and discussion. This is the expansion of the state's Medicaid program to adults earning less than 133% of federal poverty level, or \$14,400 a year for a single person. This includes nearly one-million North Carolinians, many in the state's poorest and most rural counties.

The respected Kaiser Family Foundation released estimates of what states can expect to spend on Medicaid between 2014 and 2019 under this expansion. According to this analysis, additional costs to North Carolina will range between \$171 million to \$299 million each year, or between \$1.02

billion and \$1.8 billion between 2014 and 2019. Because the federal government picks up 93% to 95% of the total costs of the Medicaid expansion, the feds will invest between \$21 billion and \$25 billion in North Carolina, far outstripping state investment.

But spending is not the only important measurement. The Kaiser report says between 633,000 and 888,000 people in North Carolina will receive reliable health insurance as a result of reform. This means hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians—all making under \$14,400 a year—will go from being uninsured to having a good, basic health insurance package. The impact of this change is hard to overstate, especially in the poorer counties in North Carolina. Thousands of people will find their lives changed for the better when they are able to get decent health coverage regardless of their job or financial situation.

This spending will also have an enormous economic effect on North Carolina, creating more than 37,000 new jobs, \$3.9 billion in business activity, and \$1.4 billion in new salaries and wages. Additional savings to the state as a result of expansion need to be counted too. For example, North Carolina provides nearly



Meet Shanea Carr, an uninsured NC mom who suffers from multiple sclerosis

"MS brings on a lot of fatigue. I lost my health insurance when I lost my job, and now my biggest fear, with stress being one of the things that can bring on an episode, the stress of losing a job could bring on an episode and I wouldn't be able to afford to steroid treatments I would need in order to get through the episode."

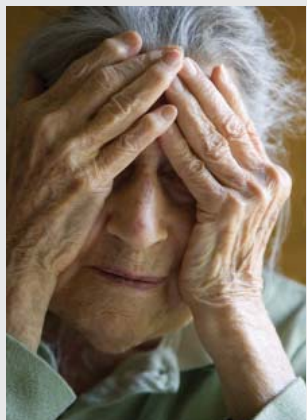
"I'm a single mother who definitely needs insurance for myself as well as my daughter, but with a pre-existing condition it's always an issue trying to find health coverage."

Hear from Shanea and watch more videos from the Justice Center's Health Access Coalition at www.youtube.com/AdamSearing.

\$50 million a year to UNC Hospitals to help pay for care for the uninsured. As the number of uninsured drops, so does this cost.

As a state with high numbers of low-income people, national reform's expansion of Medicaid will mean big

changes in North Carolina. Thousands of new jobs created, jumps in business activity, and security and stability for hundreds of thousands of lower-income workers. All of this with the federal government picking up 93% to 95% of the costs!



typical. Not only was the abuser a family member, but many of his misdeeds were perpetrated out of the public eye in such a way that made it difficult for the already reluctant community to recognize or report the abuse. Only a small percentage of elder abuse cases are ever reported. In North Carolina the number may be as low as 10%.

Another insidious form of abuse involves the misuse of a power of attorney. Though many elders have been rightfully encouraged to create these legal forms to allow assistance when needed, they can be and are abused to transfer money from bank accounts or to sell property.

On occasion, strangers ingratiate themselves, convince the elder to sign a power of attorney, and then take everything the senior possesses.

Improved awareness is the first and most important step in addressing elder abuse. By demystifying the phenomenon, we can improve the ability of community members to recognize abuse and empower and encourage them to report it more frequently, thereby reducing the number of incidents.

Risk factors to be on the lookout for include: isolation from the community, loss of independence, misplaced sense of family duty and devotion, a reduced ability to protect himself, and dependence upon unreliable caregivers. There are also factors to be recognized among potential abusers and in various settings and locations, including residential care facilities.

Abuse itself sends a variety of signals. Some are obvious, such as injuries, bruises or scars, but some are more subtle. These can include unsuitable clothing,

unsanitary or unsafe living conditions, or weight loss. Financial exploitation has its own set of signals, most related to financial activity or missing assets.

If you suspect elder abuse is occurring, the first step is to report it so law enforcement officers can investigate and intervene. In fact, North Carolina law actually requires you to do so if there is a reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult is being abused and in need of protective services. Reports can be anonymous.

To make a report, you should contact your local law enforcement office or the Adult Protective Services Division in your local Department of Social Services. You can find this contact information online by visiting <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local> and clicking on your county.

Thankfully, truly horrific cases like the one alleged in Chapel Hill are quite rare. With greater public awareness, there's reason to believe we can make them even rarer.

Standing Up for the Future of NC's Children

By Chris Hill — Director, NC Justice Center's Education and Law Project

There is an adage that says the “more things change, the more they stay the same.” It is the job of the Justice Center's Education and Law Project to change what is not working in the education of the state's children, to make what is working even better, and to ensure that each child receives more than the “sound, basic education” promised by the state constitution.

Fighting Resegregation and Racial Bias

The abandonment of Wake County's diversity plan has made headlines across the nation. This should be major news. The Justice Center has been fighting the resegregation of North Carolina's schools for years and will continue to do so.

However, even a diverse school is not necessarily color-blind. While it is unfortunate that the current Board of Education in Wake County is trying to return to a model where children are not educated with people of different cultural and economic backgrounds, there is no denying that racism and class bias have been problems in schools in the county and statewide.

The suspension rate for black students, particularly males, is alarming. A child should not fear a worse punishment than his counterpart for a similar infraction because he is of a different race and/or economic status. The Justice Center will work with parents and school leaders to ensure that diversity does not just mean that different people share the same space but that all students are given equal access to education.

Keeping Kids in School

When children feel disenfranchised and set apart, they are less likely to remain in school. We have to understand why children are choosing to end their educations before graduating. Whether it is improving teacher quality or assisting with the creation of programs that aim to keep students in school, the Justice Center will continue to work on dropout prevention. Unfortunately, many of the students who are dropping out are of lower income and are not provided the tools to succeed. We are committed to assisting students in the rural and urban counties by developing solutions to keep the students in school.

Ensuring Adequate Support of Schools

In addition, the Justice Center is concerned with school finance. Our researchers are investigating the best ways schools can use their funding to educate children. It is important that students have the facilities to receive the sound, basic education they are promised. In order for students to fulfill their promise,

the state must keep its promise. Supporting each school financially is a way to keep that promise.

The Justice Center is also committed to assisting parents by providing training and information so they can advocate for their children. We will continue with our Educational Leadership Institute, which trains parents and community leaders on the fundamentals of state education policy and advocacy techniques, and we will participate in trainings with our community partners.

Community is key. A 2009 study completed by NC State University showed that children with behavioral problems do better when their families and school personnel work together. These children become more interested in their education and their lives. The Justice Center advocated for changes to strengthen the state's law on Personal Education Plans, which outline individualized interventions for struggling students. Now, we must ensure that this tool is being used, and we must get parents, teachers and administrators involved to ensure each child receives the

most appropriate education. The Justice Center and our community partners will continue to work together to help parents become even stronger advocates for their children.

Things do not have to remain status quo for our children and their education. The Justice Center will continue to work for change because the fact is that North Carolina's education system cannot afford “more of the same.”



Christopher Hill joined the Justice Center as director of the Education and Law Project in June 2010. Before coming to the Justice Center, Chris was the state strategies coordinator with the American Civil Liberties Union's Capital Punishment Project. There, he engaged in public education and legislative advocacy in support of efforts to end the death penalty. Chris also worked as a supervising attorney for Legal Services of New Jersey, where he sought to remove legal barriers impeding prisoners' successful re-entry into society. In addition to extensive litigation experience, Chris has spent much of his legal career conducting community outreach on legal issues. Chris has his bachelor's degree and law degree from Rutgers University.



Thoughts While We on June 15 after

On June 15, Rev. William Barber, Rev. Nancy Petty, author Timothy Tyson, and civil rights activist Mary Williams were arrested after staging a nonviolent protest at a Wake County Board of Education meeting. The following is an open letter Rev. Barber and Rev. Petty wrote for the community, clergy and civil-rights leaders about their actions.

Dear Friends and Neighbors: People who are arrested and taken to jail inevitably ask one another what brought them there. As you may know, we were arrested on June 15 for civil disobedience in protest of the decision of the anti-diversity majority of the Wake County School Board to abandon our nationally recognized diversity policy. As we prayed, sang, and sat in jail, police officers and fellow inmates asked why we had been arrested. Perhaps you have wondered this same thing. And so we write to you today to explain ourselves.

Some wonder why we have persisted. Why we did not stop after we had our two minutes of time in front of the board. Why we did not accept the anti-diversity majority's decision to end the diversity policy. The answer is that the decision of the Wake County School Board majority to destroy the socio-economic diversity policy is morally wrong. We hope to be heard in the spirit of love that brings us here and to promote a deeper public understanding that all of the children are our children, equal in the eyes of God and worthy of the best school system that we can provide.

Martin Luther King expressed this well in his letter from the Birmingham jail: “In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self-purification; and direct action.”

You may well ask: “Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?” You are quite right

Were Being Handcuffed and Processed at the Wake County Jail Engaging in an Act of Nonviolent Civil Disobedience

in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored... Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was 'well timed' in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!"... This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied." (MLK, Letter from the Birmingham Jail)

We have collected the facts. The relationship between racial re-segregation, poverty concentration, and reduced student and school performance in North Carolina is clear. Virtually all of the 44 lowest-performing high schools are segregated: 40 of the 44 are racially isolated and predominantly non-white schools, most by very high percentages. Forty years of education research establishes that high-poverty, racially-isolated schools hurt children's life chances.

We have tried to negotiate. For at least the past four months, we have stood in lines for over two hours to sign our names on sign-up sheets so that we could speak for two minutes. We have stood in lines to secure our "tickets" to attend the board meetings, which are "mandated" to be public meetings. We have sought to work within the bounds of their rules while they continually violate and change the rules. We pleaded for a 45-minute presentation by the NAACP, an organization with a century of experience and widely recognized standing on issues of education, race and inequality. The board majority leadership would not even permit the full board to vote on this, let alone give us time to explain our



concerns. We have sought redress of our grievances.

We have sought self-purification: to be clear in our intent and true to our desire to listen. Moral leadership has provided the insight and energy to move us toward one America and keep us from going backward. This same moral force must fight to hold on and advance these victories today. Along with the prophet Isaiah we ask, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6) We have listened. We have listened while the Board majority has refused to listen to the data of their own survey (to parents of Wake County students) that confirmed that 90% of parents were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with their child's school placement.

And now we have pursued direct action—nonviolent civil disobedience. In the best American traditions, from Henry David Thoreau to Ella Baker to Martin Luther King, Jr., we recognize the necessary place of civil disobedience: breaking a small and unjust law in order to protect a larger and broadly significant law, honoring the very spirit of law by yielding to punishment in order to meet the necessity of an urgent moral crisis. We seek to make a moral and spiritual

witness that we feel is urgent, necessary, and right.

Our actions are a call to the community. There is a tragedy unfolding in Wake County, but it is not confined to Wake County. What is happening in Wake County is a national issue. The shadow of re-segregation is falling across the state of North Carolina and the nation. And it represents a clear call to our community—Black, White, Latino, Asian—to employ all the moral, political, and legal means at our disposal to stop it before it's too late. Now is the time for us to stand together. Public education is for the people—all the people. This right established in our North Carolina Constitution in 1868 was created by an extraordinary coalition of whites and blacks, of lawyers and farmers, of those adept at politics and those who had only recently experienced freedom. This right—still a part of our constitution—ensures that every child in Wake County Schools will have an equal opportunity to a sound, basic education. The majority board refused to acknowledge this right in its policies. It is shirking its legal and moral duties to the children and to all of us.

In 1954, the NAACP's 40-year march through the courts overturned the doctrine of "separate but equal" in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board* decision, which said that separate schools impose a "badge of inferiority" and have

"no place in the field of public education." The NAACP penned this victory in the fresh ink of equal justice and moral authority, and was supported in its position by major religious bodies and the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department. For many years afterward, local citizens of Wake County and across the country labored to persuade their communities to follow the law of the land. Wake County complied with the law only after nearly two decades of struggle. And then it took years of hard work and courageous decisions by public officials to create a nationally recognized diverse system, though hardly perfect.

Now, in 2010, we are asking the citizens of Wake County to say to our school board: "For Our Children, We Must Never Turn Back." We must act now with nonviolent action. We must continue to present the facts that an injustice exists; we must continue to try to negotiate; we must search our souls and conscience and stand on our convictions; we must utilize our moral authority and pursue our legal rights; and we must take nonviolent action as our conscience directs us. There is a role for everyone in this moral and political struggle, whether that is praying for justice, gathering information, speaking out to our churches and communities, organizing our precincts, marching in the streets, or even going to jail. Along freedom road, we will meet many friends, learn many things, and come together in a spirit of fellowship. We ask you, to join us, in this fight for justice for all our children!

In the Spirit of Love and Truth,

Reverend Dr. William Barber II,
President, North Carolina NAACP,
National Board NAACP, and Pastor,
Greenleaf Christian Church

Reverend Dr. Nancy E. Petty,
Pastor, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church



Justice Center Says Goodbye to a Friend

By Rob Schofield — NC Policy Watch

In April, the Justice Center said farewell to Debra Tyler-Horton, who had long served as the organization's deputy director and managing editor of *Community News*. Much to our loss and their gain, our friends at AARP North Carolina wooed Debra away to become their new Associate State Director for Multicultural Outreach.

Debra joined the Justice Center in 1996 to work for a project known as NC Exchange, which helped bring the Internet and other then-newfangled telecommunications tools to communities and individuals traditionally excluded

from the latest technology. The following year, she became deputy director and served in that position ably for more than a dozen years.

Over the past four years, Debra was best-known for her work in helping to spearhead Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HK on J), an annual rally and march to the state legislative building in support of a progressive state policy agenda. She planned the events in cooperation with more than 80 partnering organizations and North Carolina NAACP chapters and coordinated regular meetings for development of the legislative agenda each year.

In her new job, Debra will work to engage members and volunteers in delivering AARP programs, activities and outreach, with a focus on African-American communities.

Justice Center Executive Director Melinda Lawrence says Debra will be sorely missed. "Debra has been involved in so many different things over the years that she has become a part of the fabric of the Justice Center. We will

miss her warm presence and steady leadership throughout the organization."

Happily, Debra will not be going far. As she noted in her farewell piece in the Spring edition of *Community News*:

"Not only will I still call Raleigh home, but I'll still be championing many of the same critical issues of social and economic justice. And I'll be doing it on behalf of a great and important organization that frequently partners with the Justice Center! So, while I may be calling a new organization 'home,' I won't be hard to find. In the months ahead, be sure to look for me in your community and, no doubt, at a number of Justice Center events. No matter what the future holds, a part of my heart will always be with the Justice Center. I hope you will join me in a continuing commitment to this wonderful organization. Thanks for all of your support and God bless."

Good luck Debra! We'll see you soon!

El Centro de Justicia le dice adiós a una amiga

Escrito por Rob Schofield

En Abril, el Centro de Justicia se despidió de Debra Tyler-Horton, quien sirvió por mucho tiempo a la organización como subdirectora y directora ejecutiva de *Community News*. En nuestra pérdida y su ganancia, nuestros amigos de AARP de Carolina del Norte cortejaron y llevaron a Debra convirtiéndola en Directora Asociada Estatal de Alcance Multicultural.

Debra se junto con el Centro de Justicia en el 1996 para trabajar con un proyecto conocido como Intercambio NC, que ayudó a traer el Internet y otros tipos de herramientas de telecomunicación novedosas a las comunidades e individuos que tradicionalmente eran excluidos de las tecnologías mas recientes. El siguiente año, ella llego a ser subdirectora y sirvió hábilmente mas de una docena de años en esa posición.

Sobre los últimos cuatro años, Debra fue mejor conocida por su trabajo en ayudar a encabezar a Miles de Históricos en la Calle Jones (HK on J), una congregación y marcha anual al edificio legislativo del estado en soporte de una agenda progresiva de política del estado. Ella planeo los eventos con la cooperación de más de 80 organizaciones asociadas y capítulos de

NAACO de Carolina del Norte y coordino conferencias para el desarrollo de la agenda legislativa cada año.

En su nuevo trabajo, Debra trabajará para captar a los miembros y voluntarios en repartir programas, actividades y alcances, con enfoque en las comunidades Africana-Americanas.

La directora ejecutiva del Centro de Justicia Melinda Lawrence dice que Debra será extremadamente extrañada. "Debra estuvo involucrada en tantas diferentes cosas sobre los años que ella se ha hecho parte de la fabrica del Centro de Justicia. Le echaremos de menos a su cálida presencia y constante liderazgo entre la organización."

Felizmente, Debra no se irá lejos. Como ella noto en su artículo de despedida en la edición de primavera de *Community News*:

"No solo seguiré llamando a Raleigh mi hogar, pero todavía seguiré defendiendo muchos de los mismos asuntos críticos sociales y de justicia económica. ¡También lo haré de parte de una gran e importante organización que frecuentemente se asocia con el Centro de Justicia! Entonces, mientras yo llamaré a una nueva organización 'mi hogar', no será difícil de encontrar. Durante los próximos meses, asegúrese de buscarme en su comunidad y, no dude, en varios eventos del Centro de Justicia. Sin importar lo que traiga el futuro, parte de mi corazón siempre estará con el Centro de Justicia. Espero que me acompañen a continuar nuestro compromiso a esta maravillosa organización. Gracias por todo su apoyo y que dios los bendiga."

¡Buena Suerte Debra! Te veremos pronto!

The NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE CENTER is NC's leading progressive policy advocacy organization



We are dedicated to creating a fairer, more prosperous state that protects its people and provides access to opportunity for all. Our ground-breaking work has earned us a reputation among elected officials, judges, the media, community leaders, and the general public as a well-informed, passionate, and influential voice for progressive change in North Carolina.

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