

Please find our April newsletter below.

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## A Project We Believe in!



Voices for Earth Justice Garden Manager Bianca Danzy wants to take

down this abandoned house and replace it with a hoop house and flower garden! The burned home is across the street from Hope House – our community center. There is a [GoFundMe](#) campaign to raise money for Bianca to purchase the property, take down the abandoned home, and construct a hoop house. The estimated cost of buying the home, paying the back taxes on it, and deconstructing it is approximately \$10,000.

Please consider supporting this project, which will beautify the neighborhood and foster a new partnership. Thank you for your support!

[Click here to view the GoFundMe Campaign](#)

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## Spring Breakers Kick Off Garden Season



Students from Johns Hopkins University and Harvest Mission Community Church Ann Arbor & Austin, TX joined us on March 14th for a day of service during their alternative spring breaks. The 24 volunteers helped kick start Hope House's gardening and outdoor season, contributing their energy to cleaning the street, turning the compost, tilling soil for new plant beds, and cleaning up the outdoor space. The day started with a tour of the property, explanation of VEJ, and a warm-up to get to know one another and loosen up our bodies.

We look forward to hosting volunteers throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall!

Check out few photos below, and visit [voices4earth.org/2016-event-photos](http://voices4earth.org/2016-event-photos) for more.



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## VEJ Welcomes 4 New Board Members



Voices for Earth Justice welcomed Millie Hayes, Diane Sevigny, Susan Schultz, and Pastor Julie Bock (right, with VEJ Development Director Sr. Janet Stankowski, OP) as new board members in March! These four bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization. Among them we have a Brightmoor pastor, a Master Gardener, non-profit managers, and a public administrator. Most importantly, these women have a passion for the mission of Voices for Earth Justice!

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## **Sr. Janet & Rich Visit Detroit Hope Church**

On March 20th, Sr. Janet and IT & Administrative Support Professional Rich Samartino visited Hope House neighbors at Detroit Hope Community of Christ Church for their Palm Sunday service. Sr. Janet gave an eco-centered homily focusing on the need to care for our 'common home' and lifting up Detroit as 'holy ground'. Rich gave a short talk about some of our sustainable practices at Hope House and what he enjoys most about living at Greystone & Puritan – engaging our neighbors and community. Enjoy a few more pictures from the day below.



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## **VEJ Staff Graduate Urban Roots Course**



VEJ added two more Urban Roots grads to its staff this month as Bianca and Rich celebrated completion of [Keep Growing Detroit](#)'s course about managing community gardens in Detroit. Rich said about his experience: "The caliber of teachers in the class was unparalleled, and I will surely carry on what I learned as I work in the food justice movement in the city." The pair joins Garden and Outreach Coordinator Naim Edwards, who graduated the course last year.

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## People's Water Board Update

March was a busy month for VEJ's participation in the [People's Water Board Coalition](#). An [Interfaith Water Resource Packet](#) developed by the Faith Action Committee, which highlights the need for clean, affordable water from a faith-based perspective, was posted to the People's Water Board website by Rich ([click here to view](#)), who also attended a World Water Day rally and lobbying day in Lansing in support of the ['Water Is a Human Right' package of bills](#) currently awaiting a hearing in the Michigan Legislature. [Click here](#) to read more about the day's



events.

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## Local Coffee Shop Supports VEJ Compost



We have been blessed to make a new connection with [The Bottom Line](#) coffee house near Cass Corridor. This small, local business will be giving us fair trade, spent coffee grounds on a regular basis, which we will add to our compost! This relationship will keep nutrient rich grounds out of the landfill and enrich Hope House compost production. Thanks, Bottom Line!

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## Upcoming Events:

### Earth Day 2016



and



present...

# Earth Day 2016



Join Voices for Earth Justice and the DBCFSN Food Warriors youth program for a kid-friendly day of caring for creation.

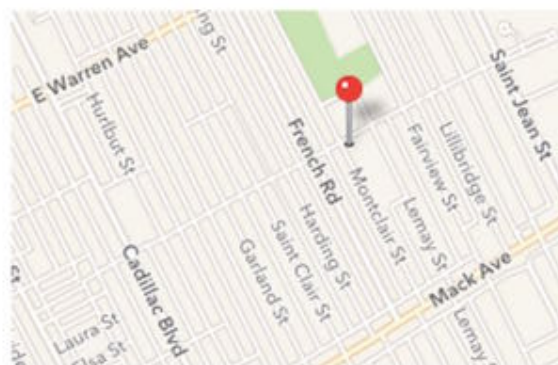
*Featuring...*

- Water & human rights reflection
- Appreciating Earth & garden planning lesson
- Raised bed prep and planting
- Sweet pea and sunflower sprouts tasting
- Food Warriors Anthem

**Tuesday, April 19, 4-6 pm  
at Timbuktu Academy**

10800 E Canfield St, Detroit, MI 48214

For more information, call (313) 246-0309



# Earth Justice on Earth Day



**When:** Friday, April 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM

**Speakers:**

- Patty Gillis, executive director of VEJ, "Pope Francis' Call to Earth Justice"
- Jerry Hasspacher, Sierra Club, "Threats to Earth Justice in the Detroit Area"

**Where:** Corpus Christi Parish's "Rainbow Room"

19800 Pembroke Ave (corner of Evergreen)

Detroit, MI 48219-2145

Call 313.537.5770 for more information.

## More Dates for April:

- April 11: National Pet Day
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 22-30: Passover (Passover Greetings!)
- April 29: Arbor Day

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**Featured Photo: VEJ at Old Redford Academy**





Students at Old Redford Academy pose with Bianca after a fun and educational day!

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## We're tweeting!



We've reactivated our long-dormant Twitter account and are tweeting [@Voices4EarthJus](https://twitter.com/Voices4EarthJus). Follow us for our latest news, announcements and photos, and don't be shy to tweet at us! See you on the Internet!

Like what we're doing? Please consider supporting us by making a financial contribution. We need money for plants and garden equipment as we start the growing season. Click the PayPal button below or visit [voices4earth.org/donate](http://voices4earth.org/donate) to donate. Thank you!



Voices for Earth Justice is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donate online through our website at [www.voices4earth.org](http://www.voices4earth.org), using Pay Pal or mail your donation to 21695 Rougewood Drive, Southfield, MI 48033. THANK YOU!!!



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