

Dear Voices for Earth Justice Friend,

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Please find our October newsletter below. For more information about our organization, visit us at voices4earth.org, or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/voices4earth.

Thank you!



Voices for Earth Justice Welcomes Rich Samartino!

VEJ's newest employee is a technology specialist with a heart for social justice.

Voices for Earth Justice is proud to introduce our new IT and Administrative Support Professional, Rich Samartino. Rich hails from Glenmoore Pennsylvania, about an hour west of Philadelphia. He came to Detroit last year for a year of service with Mercy Volunteer Corps, during which time he became immersed in the movement for social justice in Detroit. A 2010 graduate from Penn State's College of Information Sciences & Technology, Rich contributed his technology skills to a number of groups advocating for justice and fair treatment of Detroit's poorest residents. Via websites, blogs and social media, Rich helped raise awareness of injustice and other social issues in Detroit. Through his involvement with Generation Waking Up, a dialogue hosted by Voices for Earth Justice in February, Rich met the VEJ community and was eventually hired to help with VEJ's website, newsletter, and social media, among other tech-related tasks and work around Hope House. Welcome Rich; we are excited to see what you will produce in your second year in Detroit!



VEJ Thanks Our Interns Lamar and Michelle

Summer at Hope House would not have been the same without the hard work of our two interns, Michelle and Lamar. In addition to planting, weeding, watering and maintaining the Hope House garden, these two high schoolers participated in community organizing efforts and gained greater understanding of the value of native plants, the purpose of composting and other agroecological concepts. We are looking forward to seeing these two local residents around Hope House as they return to school. Thank you Lamar and Michelle!

Thank you VEJ Grantors!

- Adrian Dominican Sisters' Ministry Trust
 - Community Development Associates of Detroit (CDAD)
 - Fr. Clement H. Kern Foundation
 - Freshwater Future
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Upcoming Event: Presentation and Discussion: "Laudato Si", Pope Francis' teaching on ecology.

Voices for Earth Justice is offering a three-part series on Laudato Si. We will do an in depth study of Pope Francis' encyclical letter that calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the environmental challenges that are before us. Each session will include a presentation and discussion of two chapters. It is recommended that you read the first two chapters before coming.

This series is being offered at two different sites.

On the Westside:

Mercy Center, Farmington Hills

Dates: October 13, 27, & November 3

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

On the Eastside:

St. Basil, Eastpointe

Dates: Saturdays in January, 2016

Time: TBA

All are welcome; invite friends!

Donations accepted for beverages and snacks. Please contact Sr. Pat Benson OP to register: pbenson@adriandominicans.org

More Upcoming Events

- **Leaf raking (2 dates)** - Nov. 6, 1-3pm and Nov. 14, 1-3pm @ Hope House (15894 Greydale St. Detroit, MI 48223)
- **Herb the Green Knight Theater Event** - Dec. 6, 2pm @ Detroit Repertory Theater ([click for flyer](#))
- **Winter Solstice Prayer Gathering** - Dec. 20, 3-5pm @ Repair the World Workshop, 2701 Bagley St. Detroit, MI 48216 ([click for flyer](#))

spiritual development, education and actions that deepen our sense of wonder, responsibility, and gratitude for all creation. Visit voices4earth.org to learn more about our organization.

Voices for Earth Justice is a 501(c)(3) organization. You can donate by sending a check to: 21695 Rougewood Dr. Southfield, Michigan 48033. Or [click here to make an online donation.](#)



Featured Photo: Cosmos in bloom at Hope House! For more photos of our gardens and events, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/voices4earth



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