



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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Annual Report for Year Beginning October 1, 2016

We distribute a monthly e-newsletter “Update” to publicize local social justice concerns and activities. Mike Attfield maintains our web site, and Mike Sharley is responsible for our Facebook page.

We helped sponsor the “Cry of the Earth” program that Catholic Charities organized at St. Francis on October 7th and 8th.

We published a series of articles in the *Dominion Post* during WVU’s Diversity Week in October 2016. WVU’s theme was “There’s a Place for You at WVU” so our series ran from October 9-14 (Diversity Week) with the theme of “There’s a Place for You in Our Community.” We appreciate the support of Pam Queen, managing editor of the *Dominion Post*, and Cassie Shaner, assistant managing editor, in making this possible. The articles were on community policing by Lt. Matt Solomon of the Morgantown Police Department, the First Presbyterian Church’s outreach to the LGBTQ community by Mavis Grant-Lilley, an overview of CCSJ by Rosa Becker and Susan Brown, volunteering by Justine McCoy, voting by the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, and a perspective on social justice from Robb Livingood of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship.

We hosted a meeting with Kent Spellman on November 6th at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship to discuss ways to follow up on our September meeting and identify next steps to improve our community.

We nominated Evan Hansen of Downstream Strategies for the Morgantown Human Rights Commission’s first award for an individual and were pleased to see that the PSALM students at St. Francis, led by Nora Sheets, received the first award for an organization.

We hosted our eleventh annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on January 16th at the Metropolitan Theatre with a theme of “Non-violence is Courageous.” We appreciate the financial support of the City of Morgantown for this event.

We had tables with information about CCSJ at the WVU LGBTQ+ Center's and Women's Resource Center's Know Your Resources: Gender Fairs on January 12th in WVU's Hodges Hall and on August 24th at the Mountainlair Ballrooms.

We met with Debbie Robinson and Charlene Marshall of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP at our January steering committee meeting to discuss ways to collaborate.

Mike Attfield spoke on our behalf at Morgantown City Council meetings in support of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission's Welcome Statement and Resolution in support of the Rights of Immigrants, Refugees and Asylees and in support of the Morgantown Green Team's request that the city council support the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Janis-Rozena Peri has volunteered to represent us on the planning committee for WVU's Diversity Film Series.

We had information about CCSJ available at the Coordinating Council on Homelessness's Meet Your Neighbor event at the Morgantown Farmers Market Pavilion on August 27th. We appreciate the fact that Eve Faulkes of the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association allowed us to share their table space.

We sent messages of support for the Fairmont City Council's efforts to revive its Human Rights Commission on September 12th.

We hosted our annual meeting as a potluck on September 17th, focused on meeting with our local elected officials to identify social justice issues and ways to address them. The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living had information available about its work, and the League of Women Voters shared information on the upcoming road bond election and offered voter registration if needed.

We are encouraging everyone to attend the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on September 26th at 7:00 p.m. to support the inclusion of protection for LGBTQ members of our community through a revision to the Human Rights Commission ordinance.

We have started planning for our 12th annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration to be held January 18, 2018, at the Metropolitan Theatre. Our theme this year will be "Growing Up Martin," emphasizing Dr. King's boyhood. The City of Morgantown has again committed financial support for this event.