

THE JUSTICE PROJECT: THE MARCH CONTINUES A Social Justice Movement for the 21st Century



The Justice Project: The March Continues is a grassroots social justice movement to inspire the communities in the northern suburbs of Chicago and beyond to be welcoming, inclusive and diverse, and to offer them a framework for doing so.

What defines a welcoming community? One in which residents and the organizations representing them ensure equal access to everyone who works, visits, lives or seeks to live in their neighborhoods.

How do we build neighborhoods that are truly welcoming? *The Justice Project: The March Continues* has established “Principles for a Welcoming Community” (see reverse) that set out the framework by which municipalities can evaluate themselves in order to become more accessible, safe and engaged; and by which residents can hold their elected and appointed representatives accountable.

To Continue What Others Began

Our inspiration is *The North Shore Summer Project*, a grassroots campaign founded in the early 1960s by ordinary women and men determined to end housing discrimination on Chicago’s North Shore. Their tireless persistence drew the attention of the larger Civil Rights Movement, and in July 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed a gathering of 10,000 on the Winnetka Village Green in support of open and fair housing markets. Not long after, federal fair housing legislation was enacted.

The North Shore Summer Project ultimately became Open Communities, a social justice advocacy organization serving 16 north suburban communities.

The Justice Project: The March Continues is one of the most ambitious initiatives Open Communities has undertaken, a new grassroots social justice movement that is reshaping the ideals of our founders for the 21st century.

Join Your Local Justice Team!

Justice Teams have formed in much of Open Communities’ service area to create local strategies to advocate for the “Principles of the Welcoming Community”. Contact us to connect with your community’s team!



For more info and to volunteer, visit:
www.justiceprojectcontinues.org

Contact: (847) 501-5760
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PRINCIPLES OF THE WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Established by The Justice Project: The March Continues As A Framework for the Future

The hallmarks of the Welcoming Community are justice for all and an inclusive culture that upholds the rights of all residents, home seekers, employees, and visitors. In the Welcoming Community, all are treated equally regardless of income, race, sex, religion, national origin, presence of children, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other legally protected class. The Welcoming Community organizes its efforts to fulfill these principles under the following spheres:

ACCESS

Business: The community offers a variety of services and retail shopping, especially from small independent businesses. Residents can meet most of their needs locally.

Credit: The community works to ensure that banking institutions have offices easily accessible to all residents, and that the institutions treat all persons and all neighborhoods equally.

Education: Schools offer equitable and excellent public education, serving the needs of every student in the community and creating an open-door culture for all families.

Food: All residents live near grocery stores or farmers' markets with a variety of fresh, culturally diverse, and nutritious food that is affordable on all budgets, and locally grown to the extent possible.

Health Care and Safety Net: The community provides access for all populations to health care and social services where and when needed, with culturally sensitive resources and services available.

Housing: The community offers a variety of housing alternatives to enable people within a wide range of incomes, family types, or abilities to rent or own decent, safe, and integrated places to live.

Jobs: The wages paid by local employers are sufficient to secure housing and subsistence within the community. Employment practices are humane and safe.

Recreation and Services: The community makes low-cost meaningful recreational opportunities available at convenient locations and times to all residents. Public spaces are well-maintained and accessible to all.

Transit: The community makes available affordable, safe, environmentally sound, and conveniently situated and scheduled alternatives to using privately-owned cars for local transportation.

SAFETY

Environment: The community promotes programs and supports regulations that protect its environment.

Guns: The community makes every effort to prohibit the carrying of firearms in public places and reduce access to firearms by dangerous people. It offers educational opportunities on the safe storage of firearms and the dangers of gun ownership, and closely regulates gun sales and gun facilities.

Hate Crimes: The community has an intergovernmental protocol for swiftly and categorically responding to hate crimes. The community also supports the victims through care and protection.

Police: The community's security personnel are trained and deployed to treat all residents and visitors with respect and cultural sensitivity.

Safe Roads: The community implements and enforces strict traffic laws and standards that keep the streets safe, well-lit, and accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

ENGAGEMENT

Civic Participation: Residents participate in a wide array of political, social, cultural, spiritual, environmental, and recreational activities.

Culture of Welcome: The community creates a welcoming spirit through its social offerings, openness, and aesthetically pleasing spaces. It also fosters a culture of mutual trust and understanding, transmitting these values through its schools and cultural programs.

Representation: Elected and appointed boards, commissions, schools, and other public institutions and agencies reflect the demographics of the populations they serve, actively soliciting community preferences and incorporating them into governance practices.

Transparency of Government: The community encourages a variety of news outlets in multiple languages, including free and easy access to municipal newsletters and web sites, neighborhood papers, and blogs. These represent a variety of political views and cultures and convey a neighborly, positive tone.

Volunteerism: The community encourages volunteerism, with talent banks for community groups, government and school boards.