



Peace and Justice

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a recipient of the 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for their outstanding efforts toward the furtherance of global peace, Whatcom Peace & Justice Center embodies a powerful witness for justice. Since 1966, the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center has provided programming, leadership on legislative advocacy, and opportunities to resist injustice through public protest, writing, media reform, and organizing. Moreover, they have examined and promoted alternatives to violence through educational events.

Whatcom's Executive Director, Marie Marchand writes in the Bellingham (WA) Herald that our nation's leaders "should invest in security strategy that is diversified and centered on human health and flourishing" instead of spending trillions on war over the next decade.

Imagining Another World Is Possible
2010 Neighbors In Need
Justice and Witness Ministries



Furthermore, Ms. Marchand writes, "Military force should not be the default approach on Capitol Hill. Long-term security cannot come from militarism any more than household serenity can come from a handgun on the nightstand."

As a 2009 Neighbors in Need grant recipient, the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, located in Bellingham, WA, has also been instrumental in furthering interfaith dialogues. During the fall of 2009 they sponsored a conversation between three faith leaders, a Rabbi, Sheikh and Minister who discussed their journey to dialogue and friendship. Whatcom Interfaith Group members Nick Mele and Dilara Hafiz commented that an "increased knowledge and understanding of other faith traditions builds trust and facilitates cooperation on matters of concern As we face local, national and global challenges, interfaith dialogue will help build stronger coalitions to address them and create a more neighborly and united community." To learn more about Whatcom Peace & Justice Center visit www.whatcompjc.org.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.