

# HOPE + VISION

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IN TIME OF CRISIS



SAVE THE DATE!

the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Allied  
Media  
Conference**

July 16-19, 2009

**Detroit, MI**

on the campus of  
Wayne State University

be a part of it at

[alliedediaconference.org](http://alliedediaconference.org)



**Miami, FL**

Miami Workers Center  
POWER U



In a time of crisis when racial profiling is keeping students from education; when documentation is tearing families apart; when personal relations are stressed; when people are losing their homes due to economic instability and when AIG executives are getting manicures at taxpayers expense...

The pursuit of happiness compels our communities to take a step toward realizing our vision and hope.

These are footsteps of our journey:



Come together as a community not only to organize as a community but to challenge those who created it & to utilize our creative power to FIGHT THE CRISIS OURSELVES.

As the communities that are most affected by the crisis I think we should view it not as only our right but our responsibility to make sure our voices and needs are heard.

TAP INTO OUR POWER!

Now is really the time to translate all our political and social ideals into our BETTER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS PERSONAL TREATMENT OF FAMILY + FRIENDS

Community Power!

Their steps toward our vision includes:

- \* Restorative Justice Programs
- \* Strength in numbers
- \* Alliance building with families and communities
- \* Engaging the school board
- \* and Trainings / Workshops.

"Late at night sometimes I cry.

My mother tells me stuff that's real deep. I'm 53 and I have no kids. But I dropped out of school in the 10th but I've been with LIFFT for 7 years.

It keeps me happy. It makes me feel real happy doing that. Comfortable. I'm more comfortable being out than being at home. Especially around lovely people.

"And! Rosemarie Mitchell Low Income Families Fighting Together we reach out to others

- express our feelings  
- Pass out flyers  
and that's what makes me very happy!"




Power U

# What's Happening?

- Black & Brown low income students are being thrown out of schools and getting arrested, left unprotected, racially profiled, and criminalized.

Power U pursues happiness by building solidarity, restoring each other's rights, giving one another a voice, having each person feel counted by means of their own self-determination.



Undocumented youth are having trouble going to school. Immigrants that belong to our community are being criminalized by ICE. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement.) ICE can come in the middle of the night to peoples' homes and workplaces to put them into deportation proceedings. Due to this criminalization families are being torn apart, immigrant children and youth do not have access to education and adults don't have worker rights. Because of the current administration immigrants do not have the right to a lawyer of a jury of our peers.

We pursue happiness by organizing and supporting each other. Our group gives immigrants youth a voice and a place to speak and together we find ways to crack the system and have access to higher education. We use a non-violent strategy to get our rights back and oppose the current unfair laws and raids of Homeland Security.

Concrete Steps: We inform highschool students about ways to go to college, we are building leadership and electoral power and making alliances



WZ A - ZW X - A - Z

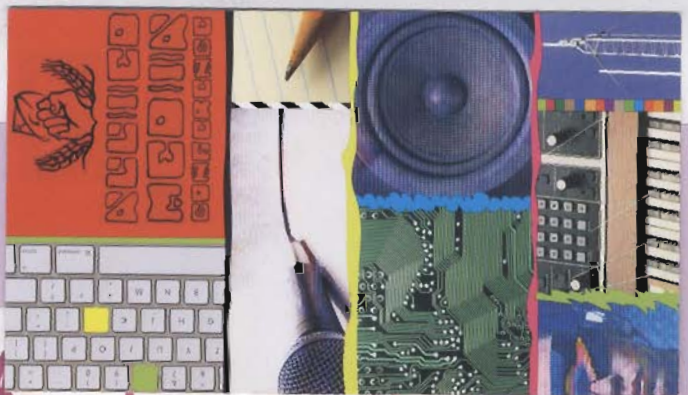
ORGANIZING

STRUGGLE

FOR

MOVEMENT

We envision a school system where all kids and youth regardless of their race, immigration status, class, preferred gender or sexuality can receive a quality education as a human right. In the schools we will be proud of who we are and while embrace our individuality while providing equal opportunity for ALL.



The pursuit of happiness in crisis is good but what kind of happiness can u have in crisis? I am only happy if I am pursuing a change to what creates the crisis. It is dangerous to find happiness in crisis because you may ignore the crisis. Part of pursuing happiness is doing something to change the crisis. You can't be happy with my slumlord putting me in crisis. I have to do something about the slumlord.

J. Banks

were criminals.

**Em:** It seems like what you're talking about is not **what you hear** in the media about this crisis.

**Linda:** Because it's all about "me." The rich leading agencies trying to secure their business. The pursuit of happiness is about how

we, under those circumstances are facing **homelessness**, what we can do to prevent this and what goes along with it - depression and all that - and **we have to get our voices heard.**

# TAKE BACK THE CITY!

DEMOCRACY HUMAN RIGHTS POWER

What's happening to our cities?

**RTTC ALLIANCE**  
Includes  
Base-building Groups, Resource  
Organizations And Individuals



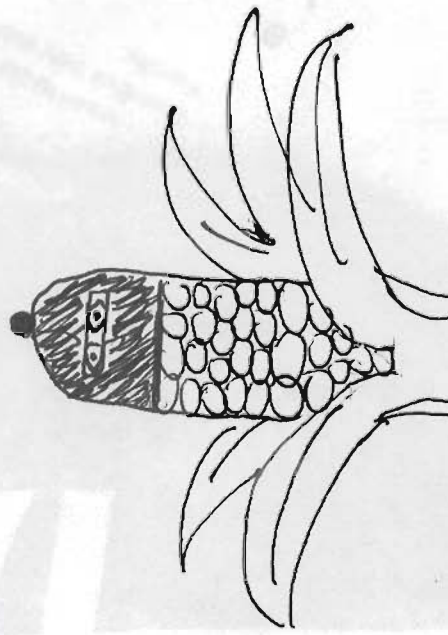
# TAKE BACK

# THE

# FOOD



INJUSTICE  
IN  
FOOD



Madelme: "helping schoolteachers start organic vegetable gardens"

It helps kids understand the food social justice people can respond better if they eat better. Reinvent food system is a major goal. Empower people to become part of the food system.



dave - its not going to happen if your either

im hungry - mcdonalds around.

thats what walmar is doing. if it costs way more to get fresh food, but cheap food costs less, so, you'll just buy that.



nancy - concrete ways to respond to all issues

beginning w/ children,

at a very early age teaching nutrition,

how it affects us. And is particular how





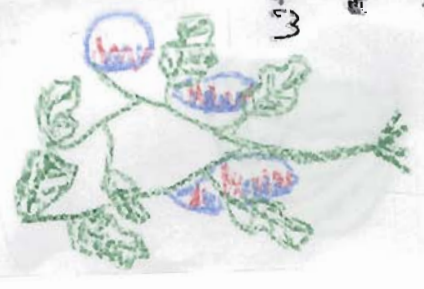


parents and community fair tour view of the world and we have to figure out how to teach social justice to our kids. And food is the root of it all. <sup>Miami Dade County Public Schools</sup> MDPS - preschools - we can start a program in to teach how food impacts them, how we destroy our food in the process of making it. So we can start with the kids.



Jarrell - why just the kids?

Monney - because I think adults are already trained by our parents + peers etc. when we fight walmart <sup>issues +</sup> we're fighting deep engrained racism, and it's hard: but kids are born innocent. So



we can start with children and create - at a very early - an <sup>a</sup> ~~early~~ consciousness, an awareness of social justice.



## Linda + Emily

Em: So what is the hope & vision or pursuit of happiness in crisis for you?

Linda: For me it would be those families facing **foreclosure**. That would be the big thing for me.

Em: Yeah.

Linda: ~~Foreclosure~~ Crooked Brokers and predatory lenders. Here in FL they found out through the Miami Herald that the brokers had

criminal backgrounds. They made **fraudulent loans** and because of that people are losing their homes. It's like an adult that preys on a minor, they have to be held accountable. **Peregulation** caused this problem. Those people had more of a responsibility

Em: Were you surprised when you read about that?

Linda: Yes, although you kind of suspected it all along, but. I didn't have any proof. That these people had licenses when they