

## MVOC GOALS

TO ORGANIZE individuals, organizations and neighborhoods working on quality of life issues in the Valley into a supportive and united entry that can deliver people and get things done;

TO TRAIN individuals and organizations to identify the needs of the community and to hold public institutions accountable for meeting those needs;

TO PROVIDE RESOURCES through technical assistance and support and to assist local organizations in developing membership, raising funds, and identifying issues and problems which block the attainment of a healthy, vibrant community;

TO LINK NEIGHBORHOODS to larger community initiatives - regional, state, and national for the betterment of the Valley;

TO GIVE HOPE to individuals and local grassroots organizations working to create healthy, sustainable neighborhoods and enhance their community together; and

TO ENCOURAGE individuals and neighborhoods affected by a problem to create a campaign to address the issue.



## GET INVOLVED!

Join us in playing a more active role in your neighborhood. MVOC works in partnership with other community organizations across the state to provide leadership training in one-day, two-day, and five-day courses.

If you would like to receive more information, contact our office today!



## MAHONING VALLEY ORGANIZING COLLABORATIVE

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# IDENTIFYING & DEVELOPING LEADERS



# ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOODS



# BUILDING CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



## WHAT IS ORGANIZING?

A community organization is a vehicle for everyday people to make their voice heard in the social, political, and economic decisions that affect their daily lives. Community organizing develops grassroots leaders, unites diverse institutions, and builds power that can create community-based systemic change.

Launched in 2008, MVOC is a broad-based organization operating in Ohio's Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. MVOC's values-based organizing strategy blends institutional engagement and direct door-to-door grassroots organizing in the interest of our community and the common good.

At MVOC, we currently work with over 80 churches, neighborhood groups, unions and other grassroots organizations.

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LEADER  
IS NOT A  
SEARCHER  
FOR CONSENSUS  
BUT A MOLDER OF  
CONSENSUS**

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -

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[www.mvorganizing.org](http://www.mvorganizing.org)



## MVOC ISSUE CAMPAIGNS

**NEIGHBORHOOD CAPACITY** is achieved when grassroots leaders come together to address the issues that impact their lives directly. As a result, MVOC creates, supports and sustains neighborhood organizations that serve as the building blocks for community cohesion and are the main vehicle for social action. From public meetings to clean-ups to get out the vote efforts, true community change is being built one block at a time.

**VACANT PROPERTY** is one of the greatest challenges facing urban neighborhoods. In response, MVOC developed a multi-tiered strategy to address the destabilizing effects that these properties have on neighborhoods. Land surveys, research and analysis have been completed in Warren and Youngstown, and have resulted in targeted initiatives including establishment of regional land banks, the implementation of registration procedures for vacant properties, and the development of more formal relationships between local government and community groups. City, county, state, and federal legislators, religious leaders, and community activists have all formally joined our efforts to address blight and vacancy in our communities.

**HEALTH EQUITY** is a partnership between organizing, community development, and public health advocates to advance programs and policy surrounding safe and healthy urban neighborhoods. Issue cuts have focused on increased access to produce in underserved neighborhoods, advocacy for improved local, state, and federal health policies, healthy school lunches, partnerships with neighborhood stores to increase service options and decrease adverse activity on site.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** is a serious concern throughout Ohio. Trumbull County is home to 12 massage parlors, ten of which are located in the City of Warren. These types of businesses have long been identified by international organizations confronting this issue as places where women are confined and coerced into sexual activity. So, MVOC has developed a leadership-driven campaign to address this issue and related local, state, and federal legislation.

**VOTER ENGAGEMENT** is a key piece of a long-term strategy for social change. For the past three years, MVOC has run successful nonpartisan get-out-the-vote campaigns that have resulted in significant increases in voter turnout throughout the region and state.

