

"Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities"

Summer 2015 U.S. Mentors Delegation in Europe
June 24 - July 18, 2015

Funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs. Locally organized by WSOS and Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development.

June 2015



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM for International Training and Development (GLC) — GLC is a program of WSOS Community Action Commission since 1999.

GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, and WSOS Community Action Commission.

Dr. Elizabeth Balint
Project Manager

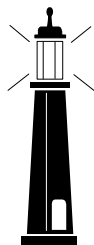
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Find us on



WSOS Community Action Commission/ Great Lakes Consortium received a grant for "Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities", a two-way exchange with at least 36 participants from four countries of Europe and for 14 U.S. mentors. This will be implemented between September 2014 and June 2016.

The overall goal of this exchange is to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals to gain knowledge of U.S. practices and create a forum for American and foreign participants to collaborate and share ideas; and build a global network of professionals. As a result of this exchange, European and U.S. participants will develop enhanced leadership and professional skills, build mutual understanding, and create lasting and sustainable partnerships.

European fellows will learn U.S. practices in sustaining civic participation and advocacy in minority and disenfranchised communities (including African-American, Latino, Native American, Roma, disabled, homeless). They will explore diverse community organizing methods from across the U.S. (urban and rural areas) for citizens solving problems in their own communities, learn skills in leadership development and building community organizations, and gain hands-on experience at civil society organizations. Through internship placements at state or local organizations, they will gain experience and adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return.

U.S. Mentors will travel for a reciprocal visit to directly support follow-on projects and long-term collaboration. American and European participants of the program will have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries. The first delegation with 7 U.S. Mentors is traveling to Europe in June 2015 and will stay in Europe for three weeks visiting Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia on separate schedules of trainings, workshops and other following activities.

The first delegation with a total of 22 fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia visited the U.S. from April 19–June 5, 2015 had participate in seminars, round-table discussions, site visits, and had interactions with U.S. leaders. A tailored internship with mentoring, multicultural events, and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. were included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants prepared a 6-9 month individual and group Action Plan for follow on activities. They had various opportunities to experience the American family life and the diversity in the U.S. through staying with American host families during their internships in New York (New York), Manchester (New Hampshire), Springfield (Massachusetts), Wichita (Kansas), Chicago (Illinois), and Charlottesville and other parts of Virginia.

A second European delegation is expected in the U.S. from September 29 – November 13, 2015. The Out-Bound component will include at least two American mentors' teams to travel to Europe: the first delegation of 7 mentors will be in Europe from June 25–July 12, 2015. The 2nd group is expected to travel in February/March 2016 for up to 2 weeks to provide joint workshops with the alumni and on-site consultation to help implementing new projects. Web-based technology, social media, and public outreach efforts will strengthen the identity of the Professional Fellows Program and lead to wider networking and collaborative projects, and build a strong alumni network.

This program is a collaboration between WSOS/GLC and its overseas partners: Creating Effective Grassroots Alternatives Foundation (C.E.G.A.) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CCF) in Hungary, The Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe) in Romania and Center for Community Organizing (CCO) in Slovakia, and many other the U.S. partner organizations involved in the joint program and the tailored internship, and follow up mentoring activities.

“Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”

Summer 2015 U.S. Mentors Delegation visiting Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia on June 24 - July 18, 2015



*Nik Belanger
Charlottesville, Virginia*



*Hannah Willage
Chicago, Illinois*



*Elizabeth Balint
Toledo, OH*



*Ellen Glover
Chicago, Illinois*



*Kelly McNamara Viselman
Chicago, Illinois*



*Sarah Jane Knoy
Manchester, New Hampshire*



*Tara Parrish
Springfield, Massachusetts*



*Sondra Youdelman
New York, New York*



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division

Sarah Jane Knoy
Manchester, New Hampshire
Granite State Organizing Project
E-mail: sjknoy@gmail.com



Sarah Jane Knoy is the Executive Director of the Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) based in Manchester, New Hampshire. She is responsible for building the power and capacity of GSOP and its member institutions through developing and training new leaders, recruiting organizational members and working to develop strategic campaigns.

Ms. Knoy has many success stories working with minority communities, one being GSOP's success story of helping to bring together the residents of a Manchester low income housing project to form an elected resident council. This community is made up of people from over 29 different nations, speaking dozens of different languages. Because the Housing Authority had cut many needed and helpful programs from the community, conflicts began to arise in this area. GSOP was able to bring the community together to form a diverse Elmwood Gardens Resident Council which now convenes every other week to discuss community concerns, advocate for improved services review requests and plan com-

munity projects.

In December, 2014, Ms. Knoy took the lead in organizing 5 faith vigils against 300% interest rates at Title Loan stores that exploit the poor. The vigils were held in five different cities all at the same time and were attended by nearly 100 faith and community leaders.

Ms. Knoy has more than 25 years of community organizing experience. Prior to her work at GSOP, Ms. Knoy was the Executive Director for Organization of the Northeast, the Regional Director for Greenpeace Great Lakes, and the Housing Organizer for National Training & Information Center. Ms. Knoy states: *"Community organizing, my calling and passion, is helping traditionally disenfranchised people build powerful organizations and participate meaningfully in public life."*

Ms. Knoy has a Bachelor's Degree in

Economics and Women's Studies from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (MA) and graduated with her Master's Degree in Human Services Administration from Springfield College in Manchester (NH) in 1996.

Ms. Knoy's over 25 years of community organizing background include both field work as well as management experience. She has trained many diverse groups in the basic community organizing concepts of power, self interest, building relationships, running effective meetings, turning problems into issues and action evaluation. She also has extensive training experience and has lead community organizing training for local, regional and national organizations. While working in Chicago, Iowa and New Hampshire, she has mentored many young organizers who have since gone on to direct their own organizations.

Ms. Knoy has been practicing yoga for more than twelve years. Since moving to New Hampshire she has spent her free time becoming a certified Yoga instructor and is now involved with training new yoga teachers.

Ms. Knoy hosted previously fellows at her home and provided internship and mentoring at her organizations. She also traveled to Europe on follow on visits and helped her fellows as they were implementing follow on activities.

www.granitestateorganizing.org

The Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) is a non-government, non-profit and non-partisan organization rooted in faith and democratic values and includes twenty-eight religious, labor, and community organizations representing 40,000 New Hampshire families. The organization was incorporated in 2002 and works in Manchester, Nashua, and the Souhegan Valley. As the largest grassroots community organization in New Hampshire, GSOP unites to strengthen community members' voices

in decisions that shape their communities by taking issue-oriented actions. By doing so, GSOP broadens and deepens our own organizations' leadership, builds community, and promotes a just society.

The organization strives to create communities in which residents accept, respect, and value one another; justice, equity, and the democratic process are upheld in all interactions. GSOP focuses on problems, such as poor housing, failing schools, barriers to citizenship, unjust working conditions, and lack of access to health care, that affect the livelihood and sustainability of communities.

For GSOP, the method used to achieve social change – increasing the ability of traditionally disenfranchised people to impact decisions affecting their lives – is as important as the reforms achieved.

GSOP members and community leaders conduct research to determine which issues to act on using listening campaigns, one-to-one interviews, and focus groups, as well as more traditional research methods. GSOP's community leaders then design issue campaigns based upon the research and relationships developed.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO
David Gustafson, U.S. State Department Program Officer,
and all partners of the Great Lakes Consortium in Washington, D.C.

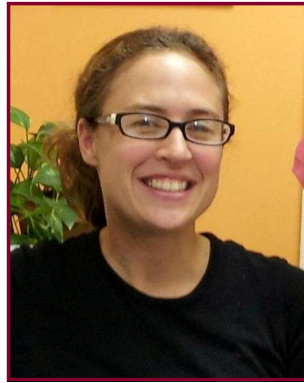
Hannah Willage

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Chicago, Illinois

E-mail:

hannah@chicagohomeless.org



Hannah Willage is Associate Director of Community Organizing at Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). She supervises the Education Committee made up of homeless parents, students, and educators working to improve homeless students' access to public education. Ms. Willage has been an active community organizer for 12 years.

Ms. Willage manages the CCH Speakers Bureau, a team of homeless and formerly homeless speakers who educate the community about homelessness and other social issues at high schools, universities, congregations, and civic groups. Through the Speakers Bureau, she works with Chicago Public

Schools and local university students to advocate with their legislators to fight and prevent homelessness.

Ms. Willage has trained hundreds of community members on topics such as "Successfully Turning Out Leaders", "How to Hire Interns", "How to Determine Tasks to Assign to Interns", "Actions & the Media", "Building Relationships", "Running Effective Meetings", "Cutting an Issue", "The world as it Is vs. How it Should", and "Winning in Springfield."

Prior to working at CCH, Ms. Willage was the Lead Organizer at Jane Addams Senior Caucus where she developed strategies on local and statewide housing campaigns, which have resulted in changes directly affecting peoples' lives. She educated seniors about power, compromise, and the structure of our government, recruited local religious leaders to support grassroots efforts, and created a media plan that resulted in coverage in the Chicago Tribune, ABC News, and other media outlets. At both community organizations, Ms. Willage has greatly enjoyed supervising interns and new community organizers. She is a mother of two young children, Mateo, age 6, and Solomon, age 2.

CCH hosted fellows in 2012 and 2013, but this is the first opportunity for Ms. Willage to participate in the follow on mentoring trip to Europe.

www.chicagohomeless.org

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) is a non-profit organization that works with people hurt by homelessness in metropolitan Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1980, CCH organizes and advocates to prevent and to end homelessness, based on the belief that housing is a human right in a just society. CCH runs outreach at family and adult shelters, street programs, and single-room occupancy (SRO) facilities. Each month, three field organizers visit at least 28 facilities across Chicago.

Community organizers, policy specialists and legal aid attorneys staff CCH. They work for and with those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including mothers with children, unaccompanied youth, single adults, and ex-offenders. A youth attorney also runs a mobile legal aid clinic that makes three weekly stops at neighborhood programs that serve unaccompanied youth. During these visits, CCH offers practical information. This includes telling parents about a homeless child's right to free transportation to school, or informing low-income adults of their eligibility to

apply for charity care from non-profit hospitals.

Through outreach, CCH involves homeless youth, parents and single adults in developing advocacy campaigns that work to create more access and economic opportunities for people living in extreme poverty. Together, they advocate to curb, and one day, end homelessness, pushing for access to a shelter safety net, affordable housing, living wage jobs, and quality public schools.

CCH is committed to fighting until every person has a place to call home.

www.seniorcaucus.org

Jane Addams Senior Caucus (JASC) is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by concerned seniors in the Chicago metropolitan area. They cross neighborhood, racial, religious and socio-economic lines to find common ground upon which to act on. Through leadership development, organizing and popular education, JASC seniors use the power of their collective voice to work for economic, social and racial justice for

all seniors and all communities.

JASC has about 500 members from diverse background fighting for social justice. JASC knows that seniors are valuable to the community and those seniors coming together can improve their lives and be active in civic life. The issues JASC is working on come from the concerns of the members. Presently JASC issues include the preservation and creation of affordable housing, improving in-home health care and ensuring on-site social workers in senior buildings.

JASC is currently working on local organizing efforts in neighborhoods throughout Chicago to preserve and create affordable housing. JASC continues to organize seniors, families and others to win improvements in the Community Care Program.

JASC is focusing on organizing to strengthen and protect social safety net programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and HUD programs.

Kelly McNamara Viselman

**Jane Addams Senior Caucus
Chicago, Illinois**

E-mail: kelly@seniorcaucus.org

Kelly McNamara Viselman is an Organizer, Trainer and Community Builder, originally from Los Angeles, California. After completing her undergraduate work in Psychology at the UC Berkeley, she followed her passion for social justice to Chicago where she participated in Avodah, a yearlong Jewish Americorps fellowship.



Over the last 5 years Ms. Viselman has worked as a Community Organizer in Chicago, building relationships with diverse groups of community members and non-profit organizations to build and

execute strategy for social justice campaigns around Affordable Housing, Economic Justice, Food Security and Education. In her current role as the Housing Organizer at Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Ms. Viselman works with seniors to organize around affordable housing preservation and housing justice in Chicago.

Although JASC hosted several fellows in 2013, Ms. Viselman did not have the opportunities to travel to Europe for follow on visits. She is eager to participate in this program as a US Mentor and excitedly shared the stories and experience of other organizers from JASC who already had a trip to Europe.

Ellen Glover

**ONE Northside
Chicago, Illinois**

E-mail: eglover@ONENorthside.org

Ellen Glover is a Community Organizer at the Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside (ONE Northside) where she has been since December 2011. Prior to working with ONE Northside, Ms. Glover worked on economic justice issues with the Lakeview Action Coalition and education and racial justice issues with the Community Renewal Society.



She is pursuing a career in community organizing because she believes long lasting transformative change in the community occurs by building the power of local community members to push for

the change they want and need in order to live a fulfilling life.

At ONE Northside, Ms. Glover leads the Mental Health Justice Team, Workers' Rights Committee and the electoral organizing. She holds a Dual Degree from the Loyola University of Chicago with a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology and a Social Work.

One Northside hosted several fellows in 2012, but this is the first opportunity for Ms. Glover to be involved in the international travel. She is looking forward to work with the fellows in Chicago, and also work with them at their communities when she will visit them in Europe.

www.onenorthside.org

Organization Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside (ONE Northside) started on July 1, 2013 is a community organization resulting from the merger of Lakeview Action Coalition and Organization of the Northeast. ONE Northside organizes people from over 100 institutions, as well as individual community residents, from Rogers Park, Edgewater, Uptown, Ravenswood, North Center, Lake View, and Lincoln Park.

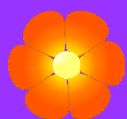
Northside mission is a mixed-income, multi-ethnic, intergenerational

organization that unites all diverse communities. The company builds collective power to eliminate injustice through bold and innovative community organizing. Northside accomplishes this through developing grassroots leaders and acting together to effect change.

Northside envision a diverse, united North Side of Chicago acting powerfully for our shared values of racial, social, and economic justice in communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. ONE Northside is an organization that brings people together based on our shared values: diversity, justice, leader-

ship development and people power. ONE Northside organizes community residents into Issue Teams including camping areas of affordable housing, education, economic justice, mental health justice, healthcare, and violence prevention. Also ONE Northside relay on the organizing community youth believing that leaders are made, not born, and anyone is capable of becoming a leader.

ONE Northside also collaborates with community partners through the programs of "Grow Your Own Teachers" and "Ceasefire".



**THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS IN EUROPE:
Emil Metodiev, Mate Varga, Nicoleta Chirita, Veronika Strelcova!**

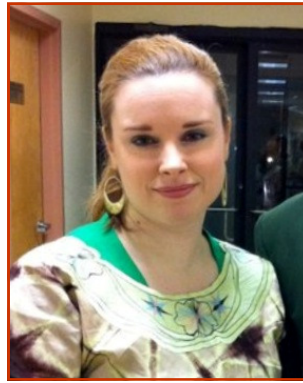
Tara Parrish

Pioneer Valley Project Springfield, Massachusetts

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Tara Parrish currently is a Director and Lead Organizer at the Pioneer Valley Project, a coalition of congregations and labor unions organizing for community change in Springfield and Massachusetts. She also is a community organizer and social entrepreneur, who has worked for progressive social change in communities across the country and wide internationally.

Since middle of 1990's, Ms. Parrish has been developing grassroots leaders from rural south Louisiana to suburban Chicago, from Pueblo reservations in



New Mexico to Hartford, Connecticut and now in Springfield, Massachusetts. The center of Ms. Parrish's work is the belief that all people should have a voice.

Ms. Parrish has a long track record of bringing diverse groups together to work for a common goal. Over the last few

years, she led organizing efforts that resulted in the passage of ground-breaking local and state immigrant rights legislation in Connecticut.

In addition to her organizing work, Ms. Parrish has successfully pursued other interests which include starting Icing, a cupcake business, founding the Capitol Cinema Collective and directing the Hartford International Film Festival and traveling to and working with leaders and refugees in South Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia to improve educational and economic opportunities for people impacted by conflict.

Ms. Parrish earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Western Washington University. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from the Louisiana State University.

www.pioneervalleyproject.org/

Pioneer Valley Project (PVP) is a coalition of churches, synagogues, labor unions, and other organizations that have a strong interest in community life in the Pioneer Valley. There are currently twenty-six member organizations that form PVP. The member organizations come from all sections of Springfield and the surrounding community. Consequently, its membership is very diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, age, religion, socio-economic status, and just about any other demographic category.

PVP is modeled on a number of other community organizing groups that have effected important social changes in their own communities. The basic goal of PVP is to respond to the concerns that the participants in the member organizations raise as the social problems that are plaguing their communities. To this end, each of the member organizations surveys its congregation or membership each year to determine what particular social issues seem most pressing to its members. PVP then holds an issues assembly at which the entire membership of PVP gives input into what projects

and goals the PVP will focus on during the next year.

The Pioneer Valley Project's goal is to relieve conditions of poverty, racism, discrimination, dependency, unemployment and underemployment, and to prevent deterioration of communities in Southern Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. We seek to empower people to organize effectively through their congregations, unions, and community organizations to improve the quality of life around the issues people themselves define as most important.

Sondra Youdelman

Community Voices Heard New York, New York

E-mail: sondra@cvhaction.org

Sondra Youdelman has been at the Community Voices Heard (CVH) since 2000 and was named the organization's Executive Director in March 2007. Previously she was CVH's Director of Public Policy and Research.

Ms. Youdelman has worked both in the United States and abroad to achieve social and economic justice through organizing. She has over 15 years experience as an organizer and activist with grassroots groups including farm workers, Native Americans, public housing



residents, and low-income workers in the United States, and abroad for various populations throughout Latin America and in several African countries.

Ms. Youdelman obtained a Master's Degree in Public and International Affairs from the Princeton University's

Woodrow Wilson School in order to gain policy analysis tools to bring back to the grassroots. She also has a BA's in American Studies focusing on Oppression and Revolution from the Wesleyan University.

Ms. Youdelman was involved in previous Professional Fellows Program as she arranged the internship for professional fellows from Hungary, Slovakia and Romania who stayed at CVH in 2012 and 2013. Ms. Youdelman was not able to travel to Europe as a U.S. Mentor earlier, and she is eager to meet her previous fellows whom CVH worked with after their returned home and implemented some new ideas.

www.cvhaction.org

Community Voices Heard (CVH) is an organization of low-income people, predominantly women with experience on welfare, working to build power in New York City and State to improve the lives of our families and communities.

CVH is working to accomplish this through a multi-pronged strategy, including public education, grassroots organizing, leadership development, training

low-income people about their rights, political education, civic engagement and direct-action issue campaigns. They are currently working on welfare reform, job creation, public housing and other economic justice issues that affect low-income people, particularly low-income women of color. While they focus on welfare reform, they broadly define welfare activism to be multi-issue, and thus must include issues such as education, training, jobs, housing, economic devel-

opment and other community issues. They fill a crucial gap in that, as CVH connects public policy with grassroots organizing and leadership development.

CVH currently organizes around 5 issue areas: "Public Housing Preservation & Improvement", "Welfare & Workforce Development", "Sustainable Communities" that are focusing on community governance, "Voter Power Project", and "Revenue Raising & Spending Priorities

Elizabeth Balint
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Dr. Elizabeth Balint was born and educated in Budapest, and has 20 years research and organizing experience in Hungary. She came to the United States more than 20 years ago and became involved in international programs. She had served as Deputy Director of Toledo Sister Cities International for 6 years, and then since 1999, she has worked at the GLC (Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development), which is a program of WSOS Community Action Commission, a non-

profit organization.

Dr. Balint is an experienced grant writer and attracted different programs with federal funding to NW Ohio. She also supervised and structured a variety of professional programs for several hundred international visitors supported by the U.S. State Department, USAID, and

others. Dr. Balint is experienced in local government, community development, nonprofit management and a variety of other training and development programs, and collaborated with many local and international partners. She has experience in creating publications on previous successful the U.S. State Department programs. She is also experienced in organizing multicultural community events and fundraisers.

Dr. Balint had established a wide network of volunteers (including host families and supporters of international programs) not only in NW Ohio but also in other countries as well. She is maintaining connections with hundreds of alumni around the world using social media and other on-line communication.

www.wsos.org

WSOS Community Action Coalition (Fremont, OH) is a community and social service organization that helps to create opportunities for low-income people and small communities. WSOS provides services for individuals, families and communities through its four service divisions: Family Development, Senior Services, Housing and Energy, and Community Development.

While the WSOS is a direct service provider, community organizing is often a necessary part of this work, and they have organized low-income and minority groups to demand their rights on various issues, as well as organizing a levy campaign every four years to support the senior citizens' programs.

WSOS works with local governments to promote civic engagement and encourage citizens to become involved in the development process.

www.gl-consortium.org/site/

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GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, and WSOS Community Action Commission.



SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO THE U.S. MENTORS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS
for sharing their time and Experiences, for providing Trainings, Workshops and Consultations for our Alumni and many other local Communities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia!

Nik Belanger
Virginia Organizing,
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Nik Belanger joined the staff of the Virginia Organizing (VO) in January 2010. Active in the Williamsburg Chapter of Virginia Organizing throughout his time in Williamsburg, Mr. Belanger spent the summer of 2009 canvassing for health care reform and clean energy in Virginia Beach before moving to Southside Virginia.

Mr. Belanger's work with VO has been focusing on leadership development by engaging community members in building strategic campaigns for economic, racial, and social justice. The Southside chapters have organized un-



employed workers to demand more jobs, canvassed nearly every low-income neighborhood in the city of Danville, hosted Dismantling Racism workshops, and run successful local campaigns on the issues of weatherization, housing justice, and Ban the Box.

Mr. Belanger has also worked with the Leaders' Collaborative to facilitate leader-to-leader training across the state,

staffed the statewide Grassroots Gathering planning committee, and trains new organizers in the fundamentals of community organizing.

A native of southern Louisiana, Mr. Belanger enjoys camping, gardening, and working with the youth group at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. He is also a member of Grace and Main Fellowship, an intentional Christian community dedicated to simple living among people who are homeless, near-homeless, and addicted.

Virginia Organizing hosted several fellows in 2012 and 2013, but this is the first opportunity for Mr. Belanger to be involved in the follow on European visit to work with the fellows in their communities as they are implementing new ideas and train others.

www.virginia-organizing.org

Virginia Organizing (VO) started in 1995 as statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. For the past 17 years, VO has established a solid community organizing track record in Virginia.

VO has provided assistance in the development of new local organizations addressing social and economic issues in communities across the state and has created a growing network of labor, human rights, faith, housing, environment, education and other non-profit groups to work together to achieve concrete improvements. In the process, VO has built

a solid organizational infrastructure for strategic campaign planning, communications, grassroots leadership development and fundraising.

Virginia Organizing's core approach is to use an intentional method of building one-to-one relationships among people of diverse backgrounds, identifying issues of concern, providing training in research and leadership, and implementing strategies that break down traditional divisions as well as achieve concrete results.

VO committed to helping people who have never been active before join with those who have already tackled community problems and work together regardless of differences in race, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, occupa-

tion, geographic location or ability. VO had refined an organizing model that attracts ordinary people for the long haul through a leadership process that develops democratic skills and builds a sense of ownership and community. Currently with 19 chapters and 10 organizers across the state, the goal is to expand to 20 organizers by the year 2015.

One of Virginia Organizing's greatest accomplishments is the diversity, and as part of this process, VO has developed sound training programs, including programs dealing with building public relationships, economics education, sexual orientation and oppression, dismantling racism, classism and other leadership development skills.

THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI & PARTNERS IN EUROPE:



Claudia Popa, Cristinela Ionescu, Dilyana Gyurova, Dr. Reka Szilardi, Eva Riecanca, Ionela Maria Ciolan, Ivana Raposova, Johanna Laszlo, Kirilka Angelova, Lenka Machlicova, Maria Magdalena Ilie, Mihnea Florea, Monika Jurikova, Nevena Pashova, Oana Bacil, Bence Pal, Peter Petak, Slavomir Gal, Sona Korenova, Szilvia Nagy, Szilvia Suri, Zsanett Fugg and many others

for organizing the U.S. Mentors activities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia for June 2015 U.S. Mentors Delegation!

ITINERARY *

Sunday, June 21

Elizabeth Balint departure from the United States;

Monday, June 22

Elizabeth Balint arrival in Budapest, Hungary;

Tuesday, June 23

Review of the Hungarian program and budget;
Logistics with Mate Varga & some of the Hungarian Alumni involved in the US Mentors' visit;

Wednesday, June 24

for Nik Belanger: arrival in Budapest, Hungary;
Program Orientation with Elizabeth Balin;

Thursday, June 25 Budapest, Hungary

for Elizabeth Balint, Nik Belanger:
Morning: Meeting with Peter Petak and Mate Varga; discussion on Hungarian community organizing;
Discussion topics:
- How Civil College has started to build a network of community organizations and organizers through the Norwegian grant and recently added 15 new Roma organizers from across Hungary;
- Based on Virginia Organizing how experience from USA can be used as CCF is building this new program;
- How to provide mentoring and monitoring with so many new organizers;
- The role of Hungarian alumni in training and mentoring;

United States

for US Mentors: Departure from the U.S. according to flight schedules;

Friday, June 26, Travel day

for Elizabeth Balint, Nik Belanger: Departure from Budapest, Hungary

and arrival to Bucharest, Romania;
for Sondra Youdelman, Hannah Willage, Kelly Viselman, Sarah Jane Knoy: Arrival to Bucharest, Romania;
for Tara Parrish and Ellen Glover: arrival to Sofia, Slovakia;

Saturday, June 27 – July 1, 2015

Separate schedules for activity in Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia;

Thursday, July 2 Budapest, Hungary

for Sondra Youdelman, Hannah Willage, Kelly Viselman, Sarah Jane Knoy, Elizabeth Balint: US Mentors arrival to Budapest
for Kelly Viselman, Sarah Jane Knoy, Elizabeth Balint: Travel to Szeged; check-in to hotel for 3 nights; Orientation to Szeged programs;
for Hannah Willage, Sondra Youdelman: Stay in Budapest to have activities with Hungarian Alumni; Orientation to Budapest programs;

Friday, July 3 Budapest, Hungary

for Sondra Youdelman: Meeting with LGBTQ community; orientation on organizing; *Contact/supervisor Szilvia Nagy*;
for Hannah Willage: Workshop at Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network office – short training and workshop for people on workfare; *Contact/supervisor Johanna Laszlo*;
Evening: Budapest Pride festival opening night;

Szeged, Hungary

for Sarah Jane Knoy: Visiting Youth Center at Redial Association, DARTKE; *Contact/supervisor Reka Szilardi*;
for Kelly Viselman: Visiting Senior Center at Eurotender Association; *Contact/supervisor Zsanett Fugg*;
5:00-9:00PM: 25th Anniversary

Celebration of the Toledo-Szeged Sister City relationship at AGORA Community Center

Saturday, July 4 Budapest, Hungary

for Sondra Youdelman and Hannah Willage:
Participating in Pride programs;
Training for LGBTQ organizing group;
Pride opening party at night;
Contact/supervisor Szilvia Nagy
Szeged, Hungary
for Sarah Jane Knoy, Kelly Viselman with Elizabeth Balint:
Training on strategy and campaign planning; *Contact/supervisor Zsanett Fugg and Reka Szilardi*

Sunday, July 5 Szeged, Hungary

for Kelly Viselman and Elizabeth Balint: Travel back to Budapest;
for Sarah Jane Knoy: Travel back to Budapest and then travel to Roznava, Slovakia by car; Check-in in hotel for 3 nights; *Contact/supervisor Slavomir Gal*;

Budapest, Hungary

for Sondra Youdelman, Hannah Willage:
Participating in Pride programs, training for Pride organizers;
4:00-7:00PM: Orientation & meeting with Hungarian fall alumni; *Contact/supervisor Szilvia Nagy*;
Afternoon: for Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover, Nik Belanger:
Arriving to Budapest Hotel from Bratislava, Slovakia; Check-in to Hotel; orientation and accommodation;
Evening: Joint dinner for US Mentors (except Sarah Jane Knoy) and report on the Slovakian and Bulgarian program;

Monday, July 6 Budapest, Hungary

Morning: Visit to the U.S. Embassy

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and debriefing;

Meeting with: Mate Varga and some Spring 2015 fellows;

Workshop at HAPN; discussions on developing campaign strategy for participants of the income poverty campaign and other potential allies;

Discussion topics: - how to cut the issue, - effective recruitment, - building coalitions;

1:00PM: *for Sondra Youdelman, Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover, Nik Belanger, Kelly Viselman:* Travel to CPU, Kunbabony; *Contact/supervisor Peter Petak;*

Evening: *for Hannah Willage:* meeting in VAC; *Contact/supervisor Johanna Laszlo and Mate Varga;*

Tuesday, July 7 Kunbabony, Hungary

for Hannah Willage: travel to Kunbabony with Johanna Laszlo; unite with other US Mentors;

for US Mentors: Attending activities

according scheduled programs;

Wednesday, July 8 Budapest, Hungary

for Sarah Jane Knoy:

Morning: Return from Slovakia to Hungary;

Afternoon: Meeting and dinner with Elizabeth Balint; discussion of the Eastern Slovakia experience;

Thursday, July 9 Kunbabony, Hungary

Morning: *for Elizabeth Balint, Sarah Jane Knoy:* travel to Kunbabony and participate in the activities according to scheduled programs;

Afternoon: *for Sondra Youdelman, Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover, Nik Belanger, Kelly Viselman, Hannah Willage:* travel back to Budapest;

Accommodation and check-in for 3 nights;

Friday, July 10 Budapest, Hungary

for US Mentors: Programs at the Aurora Community Centre:

- Meeting with organizations operating in Aurora;

- Meeting with the Aurora Community Organizing Group;

Contact/supervisor Szilvia Suri and Bence Pal;

Saturday, July 11 Budapest, Hungary

10:00AM-2:00PM: Evaluation and planning session;

Afternoon: **Farewell dinner;**

Evening: The Pride March for all delegation; *Contact/supervisor Szilvia Nagy;*

Sunday, July 12 Travel Day

Departure from Hungary and return to the United States.

ROMANIA: June 26 – July 2, 2015

US Mentors: Sondra Youdelman, Hannah Willage, Kelly Viselman, Sarah Jane Knoy, Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover

Friday, June 26 Travel day / Bucharest

Arrival of the Delegation in Bucharest Otopeni Airport;

Pick-up at airport by Vlad Catuna with another fellow; drive to hotel;

Check-in for 6 nights;

7:00PM: Common dinner, presenting the 6 day agenda;

Saturday, June 27 – Sunday, June 28, Bucharest

Morning: Tailored program for each US mentor with alumni (individual schedules);

Afternoon: Mentoring, site visits,

Evening: Cultural activities, time for rest.

Monday, June 29, Bucharest

Morning: Visit to CeRe office;

Meeting with: alumni, CeRe staff and volunteers;

10:00AM-12:30PM: Orientation at CeRe; Social hour - getting to know each other;

Short presentations about the US Mentors and their organizations;

12:30-1:30PM: Presentation of CeRe and its work with focus on grassroots work in Bucharest, advocacy support to E-Romja and to Human Catalyst;

1:30-2:30PM: Lunch break;

2:30-3:30PM: Presentation of CeRe and its work with focus on grassroots work continues;

Guest speakers: Lavinia and Laura Marin or Carmen Gheorghe, Roma activists;

Discussion topics:

- Building coalitions of grassroots groups and working on issues that impact the whole city,

- How to use grassroots groups to influence policy and legislation change,

- What timeframe is realistic? What Resources needed?

7:00PM: Dinner, time to relax.

Tuesday, June 30, Bucharest

9:30-10:00AM: Visit to CeRe office; welcome;

10:00AM-1:00PM: Discussion and round table at CeRe office with the purpose of sharing of experience and information between US Mentors, CeRe adminis, alumni and fall fellows;

Points of interest:

- Sharing of alumni recent the U.S. experience;

- Status on the action plans and support from the US Mentors;

- Building network of alumni – how

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we can help each other?

- Questions from the fall fellows;

12:00-12:15PM: Coffee break;

1:00-2:00PM: Lunch;

2:00-3:30PM: Further discussions;

4:00-5.30PM: Common visit to Policy

Center and Ghetto Iacob Andrei;

Discussions on housing, education, Roma situation and also grassroots involvement;

6:30PM: Dinner;

Wednesday, July 1

Bucharest

One day workshop on Community Organizing - CO

9:30AM: Start Workshop at AMP's office;

Participants: community/civic groups, other interested NGOs;

Purpose: promoting CO and success stories to other people, tools and methodology for community leaders;

Trainers: Americans, CeRe alumni;

5:00PM: Workshop closing;

Evening: Dinner, free time;

Thursday, July 2

Travel day

Morning: Free time, last minute shopping;

Afternoon: Check-out of hotel;

Evening: Leaving Bucharest;

BULGARIA: June 26 - July 1

US Mentors: Tara Parrish and Ellen Glover

Friday, June 26

Sofia

1:35PM: Arrival to Sofia;

Pick-up by Kirilka Angelova and Dilyana Gyurova; drive to hotel; check-in for 2 nights;

Afternoon: Free time for rest and accommodation;

6:00PM: Joint dinner and orientation with Bulgarian Alumni;

Sunday, June 28

Sofia / Chepelare

Morning: Training at Zala 73 Conference center continues;

12:30-1:30PM: Lunch; after lunch departure to Chepelare by car;

Contact/supervisor Nevena Pashova;

Afternoon: Accommodation and check-in for 2 nights;

Visit to Bachkovo Monastery;

Evening: Social hour; dinner in traditional Bulgarian cuisine;

same hotel for 1 night;

1:30PM: Lunch at CONCORDIA social center;

After lunch tour at CONCORDIA social center and visit to Orlandovzi Roma neighborhood;

Contact/supervisor Dilyana Gyurova;

6:00PM: Sightseeing in Sofia – guided tour (starting at the Palace of Justice);

8:00PM: Joint dinner in the area of Parliament near Alexander Nevsky Cathedral with Bulgarian Alumni from previous delegations visited the U.S. in 2012-2015;

Saturday, June 27

Sofia

Morning: Training at Zala 73 Conference center;

Introduction by BG-fellows Kirilka Angelova, Nevena Pashova and Dilyana Gyurova with a report on their experiences;

Target group: team members, youth leaders, program alumni, fall 2015 fellows or other interested.

Joint program led by BG-fellows with support by U.S. Mentors;

12:30-1:30PM: Joint lunch for US Mentors and Alumni;

1:30PM: training continues;

Evening: Dinner, time for rest;

Monday, June 29

Chepelare

Morning: Meeting with youngsters according to action plan;

Meeting with the Municipality of Chepelare;

Contact/supervisor Nevena Pashova;

Afternoon: Visit to Pamporovo resort; lunch on the road;

Evening: Dinner and time to rest;

Tuesday, June 30

Sofia

Morning: Departure to Sofia by car with Nevena Pashova; check-in at the

Wednesday, July 1

Sofia

Morning: Evaluation of the Bulgarian program and discussion of follow on activities with Emil Metodiev, Kirilka Angelova and Dilyana Gyurova;

11:30AM: Check-out from hotel and departure to airport in Vienna (Austria);

1:35PM: Departure to Bratislava, Slovakia from the Vienna airport - Flight 409 with Bulgaria Air.

* Itinerary as of June 25, 2015 — subject to change without further notice



OUR SINCERE THANK YOU TO
All our partners at the U.S. Embassies in Europe - in Bulgaria, Hungary,
Romania and Slovakia!



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SLOVAKIA: July 1 - July 8

US Mentors: Nik Belanger Tara Parrish and Ellen Glover and Sarah Jane Knoy

Wednesday, July 1

Travel day - Bratislava

Nik Belanger Tara Parrish and Ellen Glover:

Afternoon: Arriving to Bratislava from Vienna airport by bus;

Pick-up by Eva Rieceanska; Drive to the Hotel IBIS; check-in for 4 nights.

Evening: Dinner, time to rest.

Thursday, July 2 Bratislava

Morning: Breakfast in hotel;

9:00AM-1:00PM: Community projects review; visit to Cyclowarehouse and Community garden at Vinohrady; *Contact/supervisor Lenka Machlicova;*

1:00-3:00PM: Lunch;

2:00-3:00PM: Social hour;

for Tara Parrish:

3:00-5:00PM: Meeting with some representatives of MiSeVi Slovakia; *Discussion:* Role of Church in community organizing and situation in the United States;

18:00PM: Visit to Nocľaharne Sv. Vincenta de Paul; *Contact/supervisor Lenka Machlicova;*

Discussion: Activities and work of homeless people, and possibilities to organize them;

for Nik Belanger and Ellen Glover:

3:00-5:00PM: Open time;

5:00PM: Visit to Ulita with Monika Jurikova in community in one of the impoverished Roma neighborhoods in Bratislava; *Contact/supervisor Ivana Raposova;*

Evening: Return to hotel; dinner on your own.

Friday, July 3 Bratislava

Morning: Breakfast in hotel;

for Nik Belanger:

10:00AM-1:00PM: Meeting with

Zuzana Balazova

Discussion topics: - Empoverment of the Roma in Slovakia and Roma education;

- Project of CVEK devoted to the measures for educatin of Roma students at Universities.

Visit of Roma comunity in Skalica; *Contact/supervisor Ivana Raposova;*

1:00-2:00PM: Lunch (organized by Ivana);

for Tara Parrish:

10:00AM-2:00PM: Visit to the local community and school in Plavecky Stvrtokz OSF; *Contact/supervisor Lenka Machlicova;*

1:00-2:00PM: Lunch with Stanko Daniel from OSF (organized by Lenka);

for Ellen Glover:

10:00AM-12:00Noon: Round Table with team of participative budgeting; *Contact/supervisor Eva Rieceanska;*

12:00-1:00PM: Social hour;

1:00-2:00PM: Lunch with the Mayor of parish Nove Mesto (organized by Eva);

for Nik Belanger, Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover:

4:00PM: Visit to Plutoshop and coffee with Boba Baluchova and Eva Rieceanska;

6:00PM: Dinner with representative from the Embassy in Bratislava;

8:00PM: Theatre play Othello at Bratislava castle - Days of Shakespeare - with Lenka Machlicova;

Evining: return to hotel;

Saturday, July 4 Bratislava

for Nik Belanger, Tara Parrish, Ellen Glover:

Morning: Breakfast in hotel;

10:00AM-2:00PM: Training on Community work with Veronika Strelcova;

2:00-4:00PM: Late lunch and social hour;

4:00PM: Attending the Festival of handicrafts at the Castle Cervený Kamen to explore the traditions and parts of Slovak history; *Contact/supervisor Lenka Machlicova;*

7:00PM: Joint evaluation dinner for 3 US Mentors and Slovak alumni - what the Americans have learned, what they suggest;

Evening: Return to hotel, time for rest;

Sunday, July 5 Travel day

Morning: Breakfast in hotel;

10:00AM: (Optional) Morning mass in English for US Mentors;

Afternoon: Drive to Train station in Bratislava with Eva Rieceanska; Departure for Budapest;

Monday, July 6 Travel day

for Sarah Jane Knoy:

Morning: arriving to Bratislava, Slovakia;

Afternoon: Accomodation and introduction;

Tuesday, July 7 Kosice

for Sarah Jane Knoy:

Morning: Travel to Kosice; One day Workshop training in Kosice; Lunch in the middle;

Evening: Open time;

Wednesday, July 8 Travel day

for Sarah Jane Knoy:

Morning: Return to Bratislava; Then, departure to Budapest, Hungary to unite with others;