

Minutes – Social Justice Action Meeting 7-8-14

Present: Peter Rousmaniere, Wendy Smith, Anne Marinello, Akankha Perkins, Jackie Fischer, Daniel Jantos, Lauren Wilder, Richard Schramm

Topic: Food Justice

Brainstormed Ideas about Food Justice

Qualities: Wendy started us off with this list:

- Food security
- Equality in distribution
- Some underpaid, homeless, nutritionally adequate food, fair price
- Not knowing which foods are fair foods, good conditions, what is in food
- Conditions of workers producing food
- Getting good food
- Farm to plate local consumption
- Farm to school
- Taking control of the food we eat
- Wages allowing equity in food buying
- Healthy children, healthy communities, healthy agriculture

Others added: equal access to nutritious, locally grown, safe, affordable, tasty food; sacred aspect of sharing food

Organizations/Programs mentioned: Food Stamps, Free Breakfast and Lunch (USDA), SOAKS Program (USDA Summer Food Program), WIC, Food Shelf, VT Food Bank, Willing Hands, CTWK's Root Cellar, Community Gardens, CSAs, Farm to School, Farm to Plate, Community Dinners (Hand-in-Hand), Backpack Program, Healthy Shares

Alternative Steps Considered:

1. Coalition/collaboration among all stakeholders in an equitable, efficient local food system. Help create a food council (nicknamed food castle) that would bring together farmers, teachers, public health, school nurses, food processors, chefs, food wholesalers and retailers, food service employees, food policy makers, etc. to celebrate successes and address ways to work together to improve access, etc.
2. Local Food System Economics. Educational study and event to help folks in North Chapel and beyond understand more about the local food system and how it can be strengthened.
3. Sharing Food. Variety of options emerged:
 - a. Support for Claremont Food Shelf; perhaps a second food collection every month to go to Claremont (need to connect with other communities)
 - b. Creating more food to go options for Hand-in-Hand

- c. Meals to single moms with young children (who may run out of money by the 20th day of the month); create and make available vouchers (food stamps plus) for people to get prepared foods at local markets (subsidized in part by the markets themselves)
- d. Regional Hub to support local food shelves and community dinners with fresh vegetables and meat

Action: Peter agreed to look into Meals for Single Moms effort; Peter and Lauren agreed to do a feasibility study of a regional hub; Jackie, Anne and Richard will look into Food Council/Castle idea.