

The Naugatuck Valley Project

2007 Business Resource Directory

Developing Leadership and Building Power in
the Naugatuck Valley



HOUSING -- JOBS -- MEDICAL INTERPRETATION -- YOUTH

VIVIENDA -- TRABAJOS
INTERPRETACIÓN MÉDICA -- JUVENTUD

HABITAÇÃO -- TRABALHOS -- INTERPRETAÇÃO MÉDICA -- JOVENS

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The Naugatuck Valley Project

The Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) was created in 1983 by religious, labor and community leaders concerned about a wave of plant closings in the predominantly industrial, 45-mile-long Naugatuck Valley. NVP was organized as a multi-issue coalition of congregations, labor union locals, small business and neighborhood groups determined to shape the economic, social, and political destiny of the region.

Mission Statement

NVP is a dynamic coalition of diverse member groups which empowers its membership to make positive changes in the communities of the Naugatuck Valley region by building strong community, by training effective citizen leaders, and by moving people into responsible public action for the common good.

El Naugatuck Valley Project

El Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) fue creado en el año 1993 por grupos religiosos, laborables y líderes de la comunidad que estaban preocupados por la ola de cierre de factorías en la predominante área industrial de 45 millas de longitud en el Valle de Naugatuck. NVP fue organizada como una coalición de congregaciones, uniones de trabajos locales, negocios pequeños y grupos de las comunidades determinados a moldear el destino de la región en lo económico, social y político.

Declaración De La Misión

NVP es una dinámica coalición de diversos grupos miembros la cual confiere poder a su membresía a hacer cambios positivos en la comunidades de la región de el Naugatuck Valley, entrenando efectivamente a ciudadanos líderes, y movilizando a la gente a acciones públicas responsables para el bien común.

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NAUGATUCK VALLEY PROJECT (NVP)

ISSUES UPDATE

April 2007

Acción Latina Project

Latino and bilingual churches have emerged as part of our interfaith justice and urban revitalization work in Waterbury, the Lower Valley and Torrington. NVP organized the Latino Hispanic Resource Committee, which is housed at TEAM, Inc., in Derby. The LHRC volunteers also created a partnership with Griffin Hospital's Women's Health Coordination Center, the Yale School of Public Health, and the Connecticut Area Health Education Center of Southwestern CT to ultimately create an Interpretation Service Initiative that can create jobs and support people's health.

In addition to responding to hundreds of referral calls and conducting outreach to businesses and residents in the Lower Valley, these volunteers have held twenty house meetings/focus groups to inquire about what people perceive as barriers to health care. Six bilingual volunteer interpreters were trained to run these house meetings/focus groups and participated in leadership training.

Since our meeting on May 10, 2006 with 300 Valley residents, the four area hospitals agreed, and continue to meet, with our medical interpretation committee and have formed an oversight group to explore solutions to the lack of interpretation in hospitals. NVP's 2006 study estimated "the number of Limited English Proficient (L.E.P.) residents in the Valley region who might use hospital services to be 32,000." NVP is now in contract with the ICA Group of Boston to prepare a pre-feasibility study on the cost of a medical interpretation agency in the Valley. Together with the Hispanic Health Council of Hartford, NVP has helped form the Connecticut Coalition for Medical Interpreters, which is campaigning to educate legislators on what it is like to not get health care in ones own language and the steps to change that barrier.

Congregational and Organizational Development

NVP has provided Congregational and Organizational Development training to pastors and their church members and to other organizational members. NVP is dedicated to training new leadership for the Valley. It provides training for leaders from different congregations and community organizations, and works methodically with pastors and leaders to implement the community and organizational action ideas that surface in these trainings. NVP has trained scores of people to be independent and cooperative homeowners, effective church leaders, and effective communicators in the public arena.

NVP will be happy to do orientation training for your parish or organization, just call 203-574-2410 for the next orientation date.

Housing

NVP's leaders noticed the same houses being sold over and over again even after foreclosures. It took time to coax the victims of predatory real estate and mortgage companies to tell their story; the result was a pattern of unethical business practice, a real estate system that feeds on those who face the greatest challenges in finding safe and affordable housing. Often when families were looking for a rental unit, they were convinced by realtors that they "qualified" for a home mortgage. They were told, "Why rent, when you can buy, we will help you with the down payment." Faced with mountains of paperwork in English, and assurances that "we'll fill in the blanks later," they were lured into predatory mortgages on substandard properties. When the homes crumbled around them, so do their hope and their credit.

Our investigations found that some of the victims had perfectly good credit and could have applied for standard mortgages, but were steered away from local banks and reputable mortgage companies and put into less reputable companies. It's a neat "sub-prime" lending system - one that Connecticut's State Attorney General and Senator Dodd plan to shut down. NVP presented 45 cases to Connecticut's Attorney General, the Consumer Fraud Division and the Banking Commissioner after which a civil suit was filed. The Attorney General's office won the Predatory Lending and Consumer Fraud case with a potential pay out of \$750,000 for those who have been involved with unjust mortgages and faulty homes.

Families being hunted down by predatory realtors are beginning to wane, however, others still can't find any affordable homes. A state Task Force has introduced legislation to strengthen existing Connecticut law. Predatory

lenders and housing fraud disfigure the housing market and promote urban sprawl. NVP seeks to stabilize housing in the Willow Street section of Waterbury with Mutual Housing Association of South Central CT and Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury. As a result of this joint effort, redevelopment has begun of a major Willow Street apartment building in Waterbury and 6 houses in the same neighborhood. Selection committees are being chosen and interviewing should begin in the late Spring of 2007 in respect to renting these premises.

Jobs and Brownfields Remediation

Our Valley has over 189 brownfield sites. In 1997 the creation of the Brownfields Pilot was formed to assist the assessment and remediation of a number of these sites. NVP is now taking this to a higher level. It is organizing to win commitments from both private developers and public sector agencies overseeing brownfield redevelopment for two agenda items:

- The first is to focus on the redevelopment of one or two major sites that will lead to a significant creation of jobs and other public amenities in the Valley.
- The second is to institutionalize professional training of Valley workers in a local educational facility in remediation so as to employ the local workforce and teach a new marketable skill. Keeping jobs in the cities where transportation is accessible, promote and prevent the destruction of green space in the suburbs and cuts down the growing traffic jams on the highways.

Our creative Jobs Committee is working to create permanent environmental remediation training to be held at the Naugatuck Valley Community College. This training will confront the lack of public awareness and how that affects jobs, rising taxes, struggling businesses. The overwhelming lack of public awareness contributes to the dysfunctional policies and bureaucracies governing brownfields remediation. The NVP also plans to hold a public forum on this issue.

NVP's Jobs Committee has trained people to go to various organizations to teach people how their beliefs are connected to cleaning and preserving the earth by learning about brownfields remediation and its subsequent redevelopment.

Two of the Valley's city mayors' have pledged to adopt to our Brownfield policies and goals. NVP continues to work with the Regional Brownfield Agency of South Central CT and the Archdiocese of Hartford to initiate and promote remediation trainings in local colleges and to work in other areas to avert this anti-sprawl strategy. NVP is currently meeting with public officials to encourage them to funnel as much clean-up money as possible to remediate these brownfields, thus creating jobs and enabling these properties to contribute to the Valley's economy.

Ongoing Leadership Training

NVP conducts area leadership trainings on power, fundraising, and leadership skills. It conducts these trainings either on-site in the Naugatuck Valley or regionally at InterValley Project (NVP's regional organizing and training network) retreats throughout New England. **NVP has trained over 70 leaders in the past year.**

Youth Empowerment Project

NVP believes that if it spends time developing the Valley's youth to be leaders now and cross-fertilize city and suburban youth in a fun and educational setting, that it will break down cultural and mythical barriers in its future adults. It believes that this is accountable development when it merges human resources in institutions to form relationships, discuss fears and hopes for the future, and forge ahead to bring those human experiences into future lives. This type of education usually dispels the myth that inner city youth are hoodlums and non-productive people and that suburban youths don't care about those same things. These types of experiences will lead to broader minds and outlooks on immigrants and people of color. The youth of our Valley are always amazed that they all have so much in common and that their differences are an asset not a liability.

NVP has trained over 100 Valley youth leaders from Asian, Latino/Hispanic, Indian, and European backgrounds in leadership skills such as public speaking, problem solving, and trust exercises designed to empower youths.

The Youth Empowerment Committee has integrated itself into the life of NVP in adult settings and has led some leadership training sessions. This year they hope to recruit more volunteer adults to guide them in a plan to introduce leadership training in an inner city center on Elmwood Ave. in Waterbury, allowing them to play major cultural roles in community events.

Naugatuck Valley Project

Concept Paper on Jobs

April 2007

The Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) is a community-based regional organization of religious congregations, neighborhood organizations, labor unions, housing cooperatives, and small business organizations. For more than two decades, NVP's organizing campaigns have demanded a voice for Valley residents in decisions that shape the region's economy, with an emphasis on winning quality jobs and housing. NVP provides leadership development for scores of low- and moderate-income people, helping them to build relationships among diverse groups around their shared values and organize to gain the power to put these values into action. NVP is a member organization of the InterValley Project (IVP), a regional organizing network that includes NVP and five similar organizations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine.

NVP has two major campaigns for critical services and jobs in the Naugatuck Valley. Our goals include winning job training and job creation in fields that grow out of our organizing to secure remediation of polluted land and redevelopment of the Valley's more than 189 brownfield sites, and to win medical interpretation services at the Valley's four hospitals to meet the needs of the Valley's rapidly growing immigrant communities.

Our approach raises these questions: 1) How can we use this issue to develop new leaders and strengthen local institutions? and 2) How can we use this issue to save or create good-paying jobs or affordable housing with the highest degree of worker/resident participation and control? Our outreach in our limited-English-proficient (LEP), illiterate or deaf communities revealed a priority concern with **language barriers to access health care**. NVP sees **an opportunity to create high-quality jobs that can pay \$15 to \$25 an hour**.

Unemployed or LEP people have a right to high-quality health care, and health care providers have a legal obligation to provide interpretation for those who face language barriers. Bilingual people who work within the health care system, often in housekeeping or food service, have a right not to have their bilingual skills exploited as informal medical interpreters, giving them serious responsibility and liability for which they are not trained while putting the patients at risk and violating their right to privacy. Children of LEP parents have the right to a decent education without the responsibilities of adult medical care problems.

Similarly, when our organizing in low-income communities surrounding **brownfield sites** identified widespread concerns about the possible health hazards and wasted economic potential represented by the sites, we saw **an opportunity both to rebuild once-thriving communities and to create new jobs for the people living there**. In this situation, we realized, job creation potential exists not only in the redeveloped properties but also in the land clean-up/remediation and redevelopment process, itself in the form of engineer technician jobs.

We would like to have a conversation with you about what we can do to mutually help each other in this fight for jobs and human advancement in our society. Any questions you might have should go to Steve Schrag (203-574-7966; steven.schrag@sbcglobal.net), or NVP Director Carol Burkhart-Lyons (203-574-2410; nvpcarol@conversent.net).

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Iglesia Cristiana Casa del Perdón, Waterbury

Latino/Hispanic Resource Committee, Derby

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Waterbury Daycare Providers Association

Windy Lane Housing Cooperative, Waterbury

Western CT Central Labor Council, Waterbury

NVP STAFF

Carol Burkhart-Lyons, Executive Director

Elizabeth Rosa, Organizer

Barbara Therrien, Office Manager

Janet Caggiano, Housing Consultant (part-time)

Connecticut Coalition for Medical Interpretation

An initiative of the **Latino Policy Institute**

MEDICAL INTERPRETATION FACT SHEET

THE PROBLEM:

Inability to communicate with a health care provider can cause serious injury or death.

Fact: An estimated 22,000 Medicaid recipients in Connecticut have limited English proficiency.

Felicia Diaz of Waterbury was hospitalized after a friend tried to interpret for her and inadvertently told a doctor that Felicia had gonorrhea instead of diarrhea. Felicia was treated for three days before the doctors discovered that the diagnosis was wrong.

Fact: Sixty-five different languages are spoken by low-income residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) in Connecticut.

Fact: Medicaid managed care organizations must provide interpreter services, but many do not keep records on usage. Participating physicians are generally unaware of this option, suggesting that use is limited.

THE SOLUTION:

The Department of Social Services should add medical interpretation as a covered service in Connecticut's Medicaid plan.

Fact: If medical interpretation becomes part of the Medicaid plan, then 50% of the cost of interpretation will be covered by a match from the federal government.

Fact: The creation of a funding stream for medical interpretation will serve as a catalyst for the creation of interpretation services across the state, thereby helping to reduce language-based health disparities.

Fact: Face-to-face interpretation services are preferred because they provide greater cultural sensitivity in the translation, leading to an improved quality of care for patients.

Coalition Members: ABC Language Services, Asian Family Services, Catholic Charities, Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action, Charter Oak Health Center, China Communications Consultants, Inc., Community Health Center, Inc., Community Renewal Team, Connecticut Area Health Education Centers, Connecticut Primary Care Association, Generations Family Health Center, Inc., Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc., Hartford Areas Rally Together, Health Care for All Coalition, Hill Health Center, Hispanic Center of Danbury, Hispanic Health Council, Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, Interpreters and Translators, Inc., Khmer Health Advocates, Lao Association of Connecticut, Latino Community Services, Latino/Hispanic Resource Council of Ansonia-Derby, Mijoba Communications, Inc., Naugatuck Valley Project, Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, SEIU Local 32BJ, Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain

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THE LAW:

- Fact:** State law requires acute care hospitals to provide interpretation for patients whose primary language is spoken by at least 5% of the population in the service area (Public Act No. 00-119) and to notify all patients of their right to participate in making informed decisions about treatment and care (Public Act No. 05-128).
- Fact:** Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act requires recipients of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services to take steps to ensure that limited English proficient persons can meaningfully access health and social services. Any organization, or individual, that receives such Federal financial assistance, either directly or indirectly, through a grant, contract or subcontract, is covered by Title VI.

THE COST:

Connecticut's share of the cost for providing face-to-face interpreter services would be approximately \$2.35 million (half the estimated total cost of \$4.7 million) and the federal government would pay the rest.

OTHER STATES' EXPERIENCES:

- Fact:** The District of Columbia, along with 12 states (including Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont), provide reimbursement for interpreter services through the Medicaid program.
- Fact:** In Maine and New Hampshire, only 2% and 2.4%, respectively, of their total population have limited English proficiency (compared with Connecticut's 4.6%). Both of these other New England states include medical interpretation services as a Medicaid-covered expense.

OTHER BENEFITS:

- Fact:** Funding medical interpreter services will create new jobs and promote economic activity. The communities with the greatest need for interpretation services often have the highest unemployment.

Sources:

Connecticut Health Foundation: *Pathways to Equal Health: Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Connecticut*, March 2005
Connecticut Health Foundation: *Estimates for the Cost of Interpretation Services for Connecticut Medicaid Recipients*, August 2006
Connecticut Department of Labor Statistics on line, August 05-August 06. <ctdol.state.ct.us>
United States Dept. of the Office of Civil Rights: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/lep/fact.html>

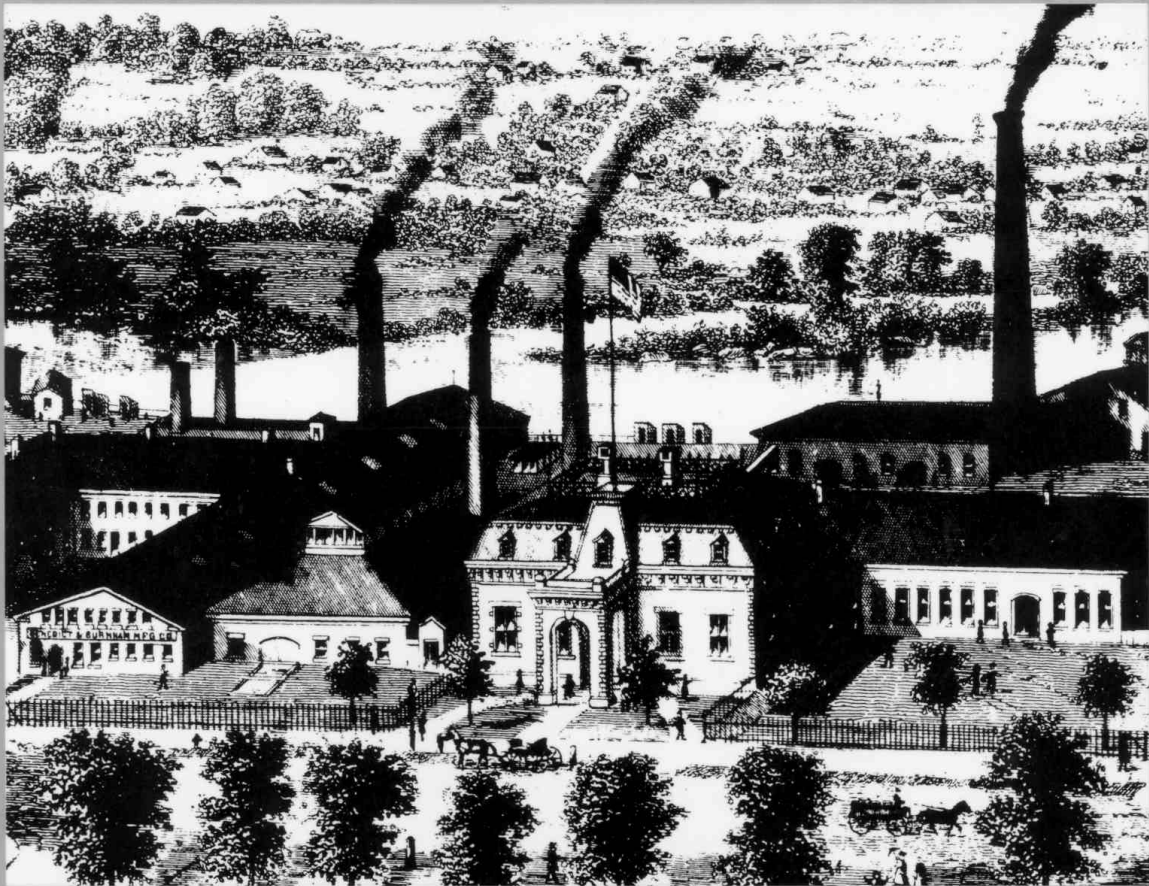
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BRASS VALLEY

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The Brass Workers History Project
Compiled and Edited by Jeremy Brecher,
Jerry Lombardi, and Jan Stackhouse



To purchase a copy, call the
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Brownfields

Elizabeth Rosa, Organizer, NVP and Anthony Vargas, South End Neighborhood Group in front of a brownfield site at 777 South Main Street in Waterbury.

Brownfields are mostly abandoned industrial sites. NVP is organizing to get more money for remediation so Waterbury and the Valley towns and people can have more jobs.

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FOUR SEES NEED FOR HOSPITAL TRANSLATORS

Author: **BY ED DZITKO**

WATERBURY - When a patient who doesn't speak English seeks care at a hospital in the Naugatuck Valley, something is lost in the exchange. Often what is lost is the quality of care.

Isomar Vazquez, a freshman at Wilby High School, had to serve as an unofficial translator when her mother needed care. "When I have to translate, I don't tell my mother everything the doctor says, and my mother doesn't tell me everything that is bothering her," said Vazquez. Some of the issues that need to be talked about between doctor and patient can be "embarrassing" for a 15-year-old, she said.

There were nods of agreement and looks of understanding on the faces of several people Wednesday night in the crowd of more than 250 during a forum held by the Naugatuck Valley Project. The organization is calling on area hospitals to provide trained medical, face-to-face translators for the more than 40,000 non English-speaking immigrants living between Ansonia and Torrington.

Representatives from each hospital - Griffin in Derby, Charlotte-Hungerford in Torrington, and Saint Mary's and Waterbury hospitals in Waterbury - agreed at the meeting that language could be a barrier to adequate health care.

They agreed to work with each other, legislators and the Naugatuck Valley Project to develop a solution for medical interpretation, and to begin to do so at a roundtable discussion within the next 30 days.

"We do believe that collaboration between the community and the hospitals is the most efficient way to bring about a change," said Alan Maranacio, chairman of Charlotte-Hungerford's diversity committee.

A study commissioned by Naugatuck Valley Project found that the number of people in Seymour, Ansonia and Derby with limited English proficiency tripled from 1990 to 2000. There was an increase of 25 percent in Waterbury and 15 percent in Torrington.

Connecticut law requires hospitals to provide medical care for people in their own language when the percentage of the limited-English-proficiency population is more than 5, said Michael Miller of Community Catalyst, a national healthcare advocacy group based in Boston.

All four hospitals in the Naugatuck Valley provide translation services, though not with face-to-face interpreters.

Charlotte-Hungerford and Waterbury use Language Line, while Saint Mary's and Griffin use Cyacom.

Both services provide around-the-clock access by telephone to translators able to provide translation in more

than 200 languages.

Hospital staffers at all locations call an 800 number. In some cases, employees use a dual handset with the staff person on one end and the patient on the other, both talking to a translator. In other cases, the staff person and patient need to pass one handset back and forth.

John Tobin, president and CEO of Waterbury Hospital, said in a statement Tuesday that his organization "is committed to providing translation services to those patients that need it. ... As much as we like the human touch a face-to-face translator might provide, Language Line is very comprehensive in terms of languages, uses translators familiar with medical terminology, and is affordable..."

T.J. Senker, vice president of operations at Saint Mary's, echoed Tobin's statement in a separate conference call Tuesday.

However, during focus groups with more than 200 people earlier this year, the Naugatuck Valley Project discovered that many nonEnglish speakers were either not aware that translation services existed, or were not comfortable using them.

"My mother was uncomfortable with the translation service because the translator spoke a different kind of Portuguese," said Isabel Lagoas of Waterbury.

"I noticed such a difference in her when someone on staff was found who could speak the right Portuguese to her face to face."

Ken Roberts, director of communication at Griffin Hospital, said the Derby hospital is assigning a Spanish-speaking employee to spend 20 hours a week interpreting for Hispanic patients.

The employee also will complete a 50-hour medical interpreter class to become certified.

"The Spanish-speaking population is growing rapidly in the Valley and we wanted to be responsive to this need for medical interpreting," said Roberts. That employee's time will be scheduled before admissions or surgeries, said Roberts, to maximize her effectiveness.

Ginny Potrepka, patient advocate at Waterbury Hospital, said the hospital would consider using face-to-face interpreters for specific purposes, like scheduled pre-admission or teaching classes. Senker said Saint Mary's is looking into furthering the language skills of some of its employees.

*“And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”*

(Micah 6:8)

**May God continue to richly
bless the work of the
Naugatuck Valley Project**

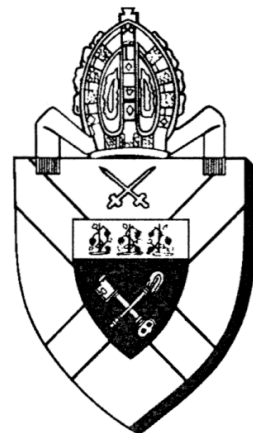
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What Makes Naugatuck Valley Project Different From Other Organizations?

Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) is not a direct service agency. The only direct service NVP provides is leadership training. NVP is a non-profit, organizing organization. We organize and empower people, bring them and decision-makers to the table to work on issues that affect the lives of our families, and together we make changes for a better quality of life.

Naugatuck Valley Project questions authority; and NVP's effectiveness comes from *power*. The *power* demonstrated in the public arena is people organized at any given action meeting. When NVP does Organizational or Congregational Development, we teach *power* through building *relationships*, cultivating *leadership*, and *action*. Other groups may only turn out one or two people to meetings with targeted officials. NVP encourages *power* in numbers. If an institution can turn out *numbers* to a public action meeting, it can turn out numbers within its own institution. The demonstration of that kind of *power* means that you can strengthen your own institution. *Why would you strengthen your own institution -- because you are committed to your institution and its values. How do you know when someone is committed and what their values are -- by doing one-to-one meetings and making relationships with people on a regular basis and watching them act on their values.*

The kind of *power* NVP practices is the *power* in organized money—our dues are our organized money. Organized money shows that one will commit its resources to justice through action. It will “put its money where its mouth is”, so to speak. It is a way for us to be accountable to each other. If we are accountable to each other, we have the righteous expectation to expect others to be accountable. Accountability in helping the poor, the marginalized, or the disenfranchised is a way to seek justice.

***Do you know of anyone who would like to put
his or her faith and resources into action?***

If you do, contact us.
For more information about NVP, visit our website.

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¿Qué Hace a el Naugatuck Valley Project Diferente a Otras Organizaciones?

El Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) no es una agencia que dé servicio directo. El único servicio directo que proveemos es entrenamiento a los líderes. NVP es una organización organizadora sin fines de lucro. Organizamos y desarrollamos a los líderes, los traemos a la misma mesa con los que toman decisiones para trabajar con asuntos que afectan las vidas de nuestras familias, y juntos logramos cambios para una mejor calidad de vida.

El Naugatuck Valley Project cuestiona a aquellos en autoridad y la efectividad de NVP viene de el *poder*. El *poder* demostrado en la arena pública es, gente organizada en cualquier reunión de acción. Con el programa Desarrollo Congregacional y Organizacional, enseñamos *poder* a través de el desarrollo de *relaciones*, cultivando *liderato* y acción. Otros grupos pueden lograr llevar una o dos personas a una reunión con funcionarios específicos. NVP promueve que hay *poder* en los números. Si una institución puede lograr llevar asistencia en números a una reunión de acción pública, puede también lograr lo mismo para su propia institución. La demostración de esa clase de poder significa que se puede reforzar su propia institución. *Porque usted reforzaria su propia institución?* -- porque usted esta comprometido con su institución y sus valores. *Como usted sabe que alguien esta comprometido y cuales son sus valores?* -- haciendo las reuniones de uno-a-uno y conociendo a la gente regularmente y velando como actuan con sus valores.

La clase de poder que práctica NVP es el poder de el dinero organizado -- nuestras cuotas son nuestro dinero organizado. El dinero organizado nos enseña que uno compromete sus recursos para justicia a través de la acción. En otras palabras "poner el dinero donde esta la boca". Es una forma de ser responsable unos con otros. Si somos responsables tenemos el derecho de la expectativa de que otros seran responsables. La responsabilidad de ayudar al pobre, a los marginados y a los privado de derecho es una forma de buscar justicia.

Conoce usted a alguien que quiere poner su fe y sus recursos en acción? Llamos o visite nuestra página cibernética.

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Taxes are not just a means of raising revenue for the government. They are also a price. Income taxes are a price paid for working; taxes on profits are the price paid for being successful in business; taxes on capital gains are the price paid for taking risks. In light of this, the importance of low taxes is easy to see: When you lower the price of good things - things like work, success and risk-taking - you tend to get more of them. Raise the price of these good things and you get less.

Steve Forbes
Editor-in-Chief, Forbes

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Good luck to the
Naugatuck Valley Project!

*Buena suerte al
Proyecto del Naugatuck Valley!*

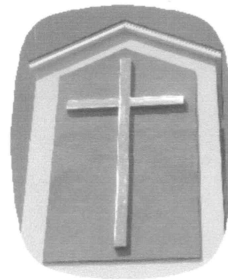
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Ever open its heart
And give to this world
All its
Beauty?
It felt the encouragement of light
Against its
Being.
Otherwise,
We would remain
Too
Frightened.

Hafiz, *The Gift*

Thank you for all your encouragement, for all of your light.

A Friend

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Naugatuck Valley Project



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work!***

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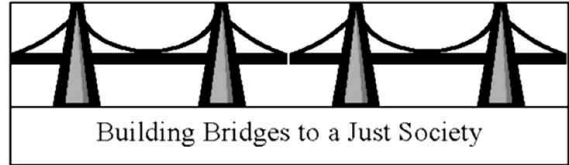
**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR EFFORTS TO
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**From Your Sister Organization
MERRIMACK VALLEY PROJECT
1045 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA**

**Greetings from your sister organization in
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On another year working for justice!

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InterValley Project

The Organizing Network of the:

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Kennebec Valley Organization
Merrimack Valley Project
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Hispanic Health Council

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The **Hispanic Health Council**
congratulates the
Naugatuck Valley Project
on another year of exceptional service to the
community!

Our Mission

The Hispanic Health Council is committed to improving the health and social well being of Puerto Rican/ Latinos and other underserved communities through community-based research, direct service, training and advocacy.

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Hope Building healthy communities



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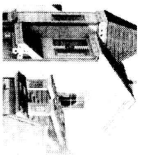
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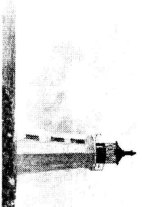
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BRIDGEPOR T



Proyecto Naugatuck Valley, Inc.

Por *María Cacho*
WATERBURY

Este proyecto se fundó en el año 1983 bajo la dirección de Ken Galdston, Kevin Gray y Carol Burkhart, con la idea de mejorar la calidad de vida de Waterbury. Esta organización sin fines de lucro fue creada debido a las preocupaciones que existían por la crisis que estaba confrontando esta ciudad y que trajo consecuencias el cierre de industrias comerciales, pérdidas de trabajos, pérdidas de compensaciones salariales y retiro.

El Naugatuck Valley Project ha funcionado como una coalición entre congregaciones, sindicatos locales, pequeños negocios, grupos de la comunidad, trabajando en diferentes direcciones como vivienda y en la igualdad social.

La dirección de esta organización la integran: Carol Burkhart Lyon, Directora, Elizabeth Rosa, Janet Caggione y voluntarios de la comunidad como Rubén Zapata, Aide Lordy, Maritza Rosado, Rev. Juan Serrano, Abigail Serrano e Iradia Crespo. La

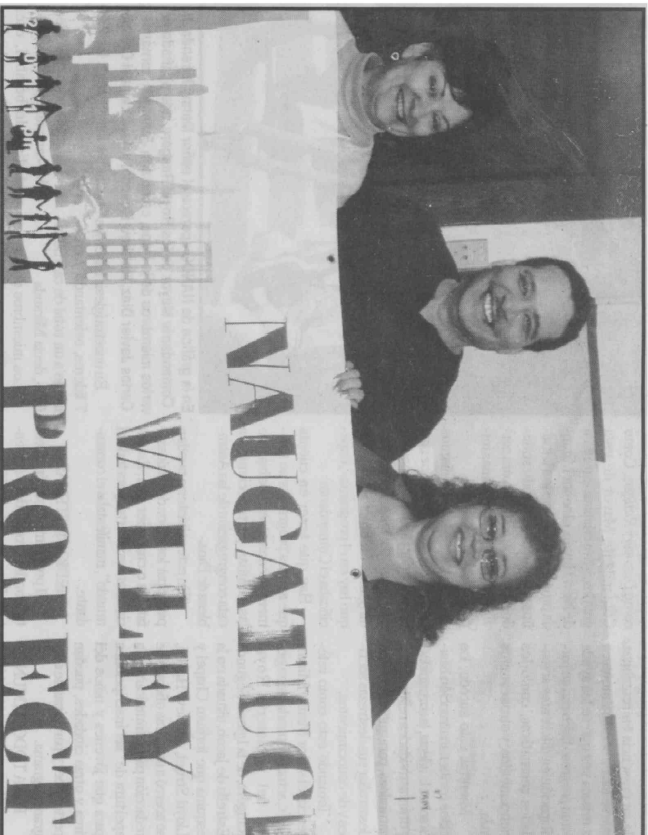
agencia se enfoca en problemas importantes y prioriza aquellos que afectan el valle de la región, terrenos contaminados y abandonados, ponen en peligro la salud de los residentes.

También trabaja en problemas que confrontan los pacientes hispanos que debido a la limitación del idioma. La secretaria Toni Harry del Distrito #10 someteó una propuesta legislativa para que el Medicaid implemente servi-

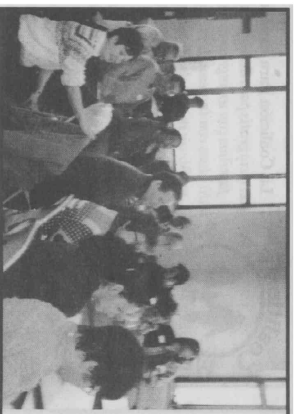
cios de intérpretes privados o reembolsados por el estado.

Actualmente se ha logrado que los hospitales se reúnan con el comité y la Junta de Directores que preside el Padre John Cooney de la Iglesia San Juan Evangelista de Watertown. Una vez al mes el comité se reúne con los hospitales Saint Mary, de Waterbury, Clamhore Hungerford Hospital, de Torrington, Griffin Hospital de Derby. El propósito de estas reuniones es diseñar estrategias para mejorar los servicios de intérpretes en todos los idiomas.

Finalmente, el pasado 3 de marzo se llevó a efecto una asamblea del Naugatuck Valley Project en la iglesia Naugatuck Congregational y Division St. con el propósito de hacer los preparativos para la reunión anual de primavera cuya agenda de trabajo será: Interpretación médica, inventar, medio ambiente, entusiasmo a los líderes, recopilación de historias sobre las experiencias y dificultades en el tratamiento médico, entre otros asuntos importantes.



De izq. a der. Carol Burkhart Lyon, Directora, Rubén Zapata y Elizabeth Rosa.



Our sincere wishes for your continued success in serving the diverse needs of people in our communities.

**The Directors, Officers and Staff of the Greater Valley's
*Community Bank***



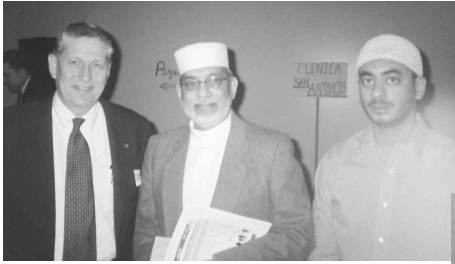
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NVP's Spring Community Meeting



Chuck Beebe, Majeed Sharif, Bekim Belica



Attendees at Spring Meeting



Ruth Glasser (sitting), Waleska Serrano, Rev. Edgar Trinidad — performing Skit



L to R Ken Roberts, Griffin Hospital
Potrepka, Waterbury Hospital
Senker, St. Mary's Hospital
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Virginia
Thomas J.
Alan Marinaccio,

May 10, 2006



Nilsa Torres (standing), L to R Bud Behlman, Aidé Lorduy, Rev. Robert Harvey



Rod Swarts, Theresa Francis Volunteer of the Year Award (Chuck Beebe, presenter in rear)



Isomar Vazquez, Youth Leadership Award



Peter Marcuse, Ed and Ethel Spellman Community Leader Award (Constance Hunter, presenter)



Aidé Lorduy and Ken Roberts, Griffin Hospital

NVP's 22nd Annual Convention



L to R Natalie, Madeline & Norberto Zorrilla, and Ruben Zapata



Executive Council members being sworn in:
Cyndi Vergauwen, Bob Gross, Linda Liotus, Ken Falk



L to R Executive Council members being sworn in: Front Row: Rev. Lionel French, Ruben Zapata, Majeed Sharif, Rod Swarts Back Row: Winston Stephenson, Steve Schrag, James Welcome Bub Behlman (at podium)

RESERVE SU ASIENTO!



El Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP), en combinación con otros Proyectos de la organización InterValley Project (IVP), estarán asistiendo a la

Acción de

PRIMARIA PRESIDENCIAL

Auspiciada por el Proyecto Organizador Granite State

SEPTIEMBRE 15, 2007

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Universidad Southern New Hampshire

2500 North River Road

Manchester, New Hampshire

Quiere usted saber cual es la postura de los candidatos en cuanto a los asuntos que verdaderamente afectan a su familia y a su comunidad? Asuntos como Salud, Trabajos y Inmigración? Quieres que los candidatos le escuchen a USTED para un cambio?

Si su contesta es si, unase a nosotros Septiembre 15.

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The Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP), in conjunction with other InterValley Project organizations, will be attending the

Granite State Organizing Project's
Presidential Primary Action

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Getting our Issues on the National Agenda!

Do you want to know how the candidates stand on issues that REALLY affect your family and your community? Issues such as Health Care, Jobs, and Immigration? Do you want the candidates to listen to YOU for a change?

If yes, then join us on September 15.

CALL NVP (203) 574-2410 TO SIGN UP.

The InterValley Project is a New England organizing network directed by its member organizations. They are the Granite State Organizing Project in New Hampshire, the Kennebec Valley Organization in Maine, the Naugatuck Valley Project in Connecticut, the Merrimack Valley Project and the Pioneer Valley Project in Massachusetts and the Rhode Island Organizing Project.