

Introducing...You're One Stop Shop for Grassroots Resources!

Over the years, many of you have said that a streamlined system of support for grassroots communities—from campaign planning to community documentation, mapping and strategic communications—would greatly improve the impact of campaign efforts and capacity. We heard you and we agree with you!

This year, DataCenter is taking an active role in the movement to build such a system. With other organizations, we are convening a community of resource allies to strengthen grassroots community organizing. *Resource Allies for Social Justice* (ReAI SJ) launched formally in Los Angeles in April. ReAI SJ will conduct a fieldscan of the L.A. social justice community to assess resource needs for grassroots organizing. Similarly, in the Bay Area, Youth in Focus (now defunct), Pacific Institute, and DataCenter are convening a community of grassroots research practitioners.

Resource Allies for Social Justice (ReAI SJ) Partners

- *Advancement Project*
- *SCOPE-AGENDA*
- *Southern California Library*
- *California Fund for Youth Organizing*
- *Healthy City to Advancement Project (HC of AP)*
- *VozMob*
- *DataCenter (Los Angeles satellite office)*

There are many benefits to these convenings. Resources are in high demand as communities seek strategies to achieve maximum policy impact on issues that affect them. These formal convenings will create a one-stop shop for resources: community groups will not only receive immediate aid for their unique needs, but can also count on having these resources with them for the long haul, supporting the movement for decades to come.

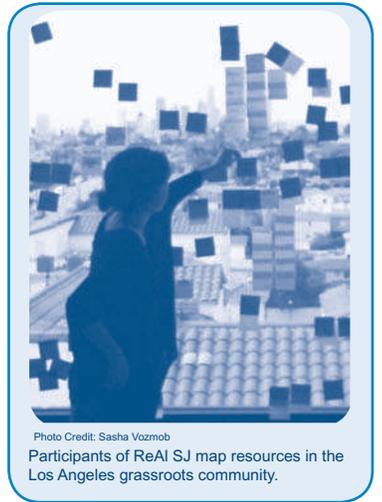


Photo Credit: Sasha Vozmob
Participants of ReAI SJ map resources in the Los Angeles grassroots community.

In Their Own Words: DataCenter helps communities articulate their needs

by Anne Ryan | Communications Associate

Incarcerated Youth

A mother watches as her teenage son is handcuffed in a courtroom to be sent to a juvenile detention center. She wonders, "When will I see him again?"

Communities of color have withstood the worst of de-funding social services and increased funding of the prison system. While navigating the complex criminal justice system, incarcerated youth must also struggle to find a path to a sustainable educational and professional future. In response to these struggles, DataCenter is collaborating with Justice for Families (J4) to conduct the first-ever national research of at-risk and incarcerated youth led by their families.

Incarcerated youth of color and their families face a mountain of struggles, from discrimination and language barriers to bureaucracy and court fees. This research and its subsequent report will allow J4 to learn the needs of and develop support systems for the youths' families. It will also be a key organizing tool to call for new federal policies that reduce juvenile detention.

Imagine a world where a majority of youth of color live in safe communities, overflowing with opportunities. This report will lead us one step closer to that world.



Photo Credit: Center for Constitutional Rights

Trans* Community

"I stared far back into my past and remembered the child who couldn't be catalogued by Sears. I saw her standing in front of her own mirror, in her father's suit, asking me if I was the person she would grow up and become. Yes, I answered her. And I thought how brave she was to have begun this journey, to have withstood the towering judgments."

-- Jess, main character of *Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg



Photo Credit: Antonin Kiratovich
www.arcusfoundation.org

Jess' journey may be removed from your realm of experience, or it may be very close to your heart. Either way, the voices of individuals navigating the world of gender identity can and will be heard!

DataCenter has joined with Arcus Foundation to map organizations across the country whose work in some way supports transgender, transsexual, cross-dressing, gender non-conforming, gender variant and other individuals who chose not to conform to a binary expression of gender. Arcus Foundation, a global foundation that seeks LGBT equality, will use this map to determine priority needs and issues among organizations in the Trans/Two-Spirit/Intersex community. As this work moves forward, individuals like Jess, who may feel marginalized by their experiences, will be empowered to share their stories and walk this journey with the support and resources they need.