

## BRINGING JUSTICE ON THE BUS!

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate

DataCenter is working with People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER) on the Transit to the People project. This past summer, DataCenter supported POWER staff and community member-leaders as they surveyed 700 African American, Latino, low-income youth and adult transit riders in San Francisco, California about their public transit experiences. These groups have the highest dependency on San Francisco Municipal Transit (MUNI) in the city, but is it affordable, accessible and safe for them?

In an effort to make a full assessment of MUNI and propose well-informed solutions, POWER will analyze the data collected in the surveys and make recommendations for improvement. DataCenter will help write this report, which will include a strategic presentation of key data as well as powerful community stories to support their recommendations. The report will be translated into relevant languages and a community-friendly version of it will be shared with bus riders, because, after all, it is their information and a tool to advance their rights.

POWER already has a campaign underway to gain free bus passes for all youth in San Francisco. The upcoming Transit to the People report will build off of this



Youth speak out for free bus passes in San Francisco. (Photo credit: POWER)

current momentum for youth transportation rights. The report will inform future campaigns so that the powerful knowledge of riders is heard. The result: more equitable transportation systems for communities.

***Urban communities becoming experts to fight daily injustices...now that's what we call Research Justice!***

## PUTTING THE "CARE" BACK IN FOSTER CARE

LGBT group in Utah examines and advocates for care standards

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate

Trapped in an overcrowded and underfunded system, navigating the confusion of adolescence: this is what LGBT youth in the Utah Foster Care system face everyday. While a national effort is underway to better understand and support these youth, socially conservative states like Utah are behind the curve. To address this issue, DataCenter developed a research how-to guide for Utah Pride Center about safety in the Utah foster care system. A research guide is a customized, step-by-step instruction for researching a certain topic. It includes online sources, research tips and a guide for documenting findings. This guide will enable Utah Pride Center to gather information about the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Leaders will then use the information to compel the Utah DCFS to adopt a set of guidelines for culturally competent and compassionate care for LGBT youth in the system.

But wait, there's more! How does the Utah Pride Center ensure that standard practices of care are upheld? Their community leaders will not only gain expertise about the Utah foster care system in 2011. The DataCenter how-to guide acts as a template, so that for years to come Utah Pride can gather the information they need to champion and improve fair and just standards for the foster youth they support.

***Communities gaining the tools they need to advocate for themselves year after year... now that's what we call Research Justice!***



Photo: Ogden Outreach Resource Center