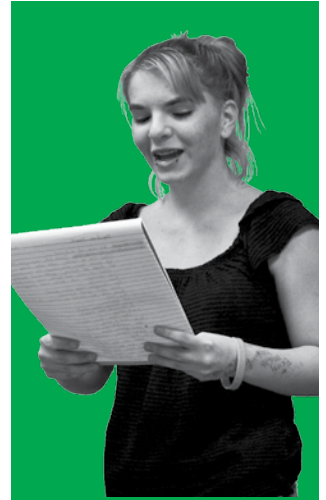




empowering



supporting

nbCC



organizing

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
2011 Annual Report

Jeff Goldwasser, Board President, 2009-present



Every crisis is also an opportunity. The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition has used the current economic crisis as an opportunity to change itself and to make changes for the better in our community.

Over the past 18 months, the Coalition's board and staff have looked at some of our basic assumptions about the organization's mission and strategies at a time when the needs of the community are changing rapidly. We called together the faith community to come together to help people in need; and now the Interfaith Action Initiative we inspired is providing food and dignity for hundreds of people each month. The Coalition is exploring new and diverse ways to fund our work, and this will give us more flexibility to respond to the community's needs. We are putting more of the Coalition's resources into organizing people to

make needed changes in neighborhoods and schools. We are changing our own organization by putting more decision-making power into the hands of the people we serve. All of these changes will make the Coalition a better organization, not only in tough times, but also in the future that lies ahead.

I want to express my deepest thanks to the nbCC--and especially to its intrepid director, Al Bashevkin--for giving me the chance to serve as nbCC's board president for the past two years. For me, personally, seeing what the Coalition's amazing staff does up close has been nothing short of amazing. As I am stepping down now, I am hopeful for this region's future because of the dedication to community, service and renewal that I see in this remarkable organization.

Jeffrey Goldwasser

nbCC Board of Directors

Jeff Goldwasser, *President*

Robert Calway, *Vice-President*

Al Nelson, *Treasurer*

Steve Green, *Clerk*

Suzy Helme, *Executive Committee*

John Law, *Executive Committee*

Scott Nichols, *Executive Committee*

Debbie Rosselli, *Executive Committee*

Tom Bernard, *Finance Committee*

Chris Meehan, *Finance Committee*

Mary Sugden, *Finance Committee*

Craig Bard

Maritsa Barros

Jonathan Lothrop

Jonathan Secor

Geraldine Shen

Stephen Sheppard

Al Bashevkin, Executive Director, 1986-present



We're about to celebrate twenty-five years of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and while much in the community has changed during that time, the nbCC has remained a constant. The nbCC has enabled community conversations about some difficult, yet vital issues, has provided current information about community resources, and has helped to address some very challenging local issues. The nbCC is about community and I am pleased to hear many speak about neighborhoods, youth development, outreach, and organizing in the many conversations about our Northern Berkshire community.

I feel very proud of the work of Mark Rondeau and Al Nelson in establishing the Interfaith Action Initiative (IAI) and the spiritual conversations they have facilitated on the third Friday of each month. Not enough just to talk, the IAI has launched the Friendship Center Food Pantry as a means to fill the gap in food security for many local households, and has built a working structure to operate the Food Pantry.

Our growing relationship with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and their interest in our work

about Community Organizing has been exciting to see. Thanks to new Coalition staff: Wendy

Krom, for her love of teaching shown through the trainings of our Community Outreach Workers. Annie Kirkpatrick, who has bravely assisted both our Youth Leadership Programs and our local neighborhood initiatives. Bert Lamb, for her talents in communicating our mission.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some very dedicated Board members this year. Jeff Goldwasser, our President for the past 2 years, is moving away. Jeff has guided me through some very challenging times and has done it all with an eye for community. Bob Calway, our VP and in line to be President, is also moving away. Bob's sharp mind will be missed. Thanks to Jonathan Secor as well, who as the Director of the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center has been a committed Board member, and has helped us in thinking of new ways for the arts to co-exist in our community.

So as I look back, this year has been a year of change. We're an important entity here, and I hope we will be even stronger when we look back twenty-five years from now. . .

Al Bashevkin

nbCC Staff

Al Bashevkin, *Executive Director*

Liz Boland, *Business Manager*

Wendy Krom, *Northern Berkshire Neighbors*

Kate Merrigan, *UNITY Program Coordinator*

Lois Daunis, *Grants Manager, CMCA*

Annie Kirkpatrick, *Coalition Prog. Associate*

Bert Lamb, *Communications Coordinator*

nbCC Interns/Volunteers

Gracie Vincent, *Administrative Asst.*

Shana Dixon, *Coalition Intern*

Jason Brown, *Take Charge Intern*

Amanda L'Etoile, *MCLA Community Engagement*

Coalition Core

At the center of the nbCC are our efforts to provide information about community services and resources. Our monthly meetings and newsletter, special events, and local television show, Northern Berkshire Tonite all provide the community with the knowledge of what's available. In addition, the Coalition has a unique role as the facilitator of community conversations that address local issues. This year we were in conversations beyond our monthly meetings impacting homelessness prevention, social action in the faith community, our environment, MA 211, housing of state services in Northern Berkshire County, and health care.

We are in our last year of a ten-year grant from SAMHSA to support our efforts to reduce underage drinking. In our ten years with SAMHSA we have seen a 30% decline in 30-day alcohol use, and a 28% decline

in marijuana use among 12th graders. We are very proud of these results and know that they reflect the hard work involved in changing community norms about underage drinking.

This past year, the nbCC staff and Board have had a series of conversations to help assess what is most important for the Coalition to do. What is most important are our efforts to create conditions for change, watching that change unfold, and seeing that change better the community environment. The creation of drop boxes for prescription drugs in North Adams and Williamstown, the creation of a Youth Commission by the North Adams City Council, and the formation of the Interfaith Action Initiative are all recent Community Changes that likely would not have occurred without the leadership of the nbCC.



UNITY

UNITY (United, Neighboring, Interdependent, Trusted Youth) promotes youth development in the northern Berkshire area and facilitates networking and collaboration between youth-serving organizations through monthly meetings of our Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative.

UNITY's year began memorably with an entry in the Pepsi Refresh contest in an effort to win, through popular vote, \$250K to build a skatepark in North Adams. This campaign saw our youth literally taking to the streets to spread the message about their goal of building a park.



While we did not win the contest, we did mobilize a lot of community support and spark excitement about the idea of creating more public spaces for young people. We continue to look at possibilities for funding a skatepark.

Twenty teenagers from four schools participated in this year's Youth Leadership Program. This year, our group wanted to focus on connecting with elders. With training from writer and historian Joe Manning, the group conducted oral history interviews with elders in the community. Later in the year, the group planned the April nbCC Monthly Forum, at which they facilitated conversation on "How to Talk with Teenagers". Finally, YLP members participated in



the North Adams Day of Service alongside members of the North Adams Youth

Commission—which UNITY helped form in 2010 and which includes 3 UNITY members as Commissioners.

Our popular Teen Writing Workshop remained strong this year. Workshop alum and award-winning slam poet Jake Snow joined longtime TWW Facilitator Robin Lehleitner this year in leading the group. Over 30 youth attended over the course of the year, proving that in its twelfth year, the workshop is as relevant and important to its youth participants as ever. Another long-running initiative, The Groove Con-

cert Series, saw an influx of new energy this year when 5 YLP members decided to get involved and try raise Groove back to previous levels of productivity. The new leadership got their feet wet with 2 shows this year and is looking forward to growing in the year to come.

UNITY also helped plan and run the 5th Annual 411 in the 413 Youth Conference, sponsored by the Berkshire Youth Development Project. The conference, held on April 1st at Hancock Shaker Village, drew about 65 students from Berkshire County high schools to meet, network, learn new skills, and explore issues of key interest to local teenagers.



Northern Berkshire Neighbors



Northern Berkshire Neighbors

(NBN) connects and supports residents within neighborhoods to build community, create stronger neighborhoods and make connections to groups, institutions and other resources. Community Outreach Workers are dedicated, community-minded individuals committed to making positive change in the Northern Berkshires. They participate in a 15-week training program designed to build community organizing and leadership skills. They assist residents in accessing available services and bring together neighbors to create and implement neighborhood action plans.

NBN hosts quarterly Neighborhood Summits where people working to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods across Northern Berkshire have an opportunity to come together, share successes, challenges and strategies. This year, the location of these Summits has rotated,

making it more accessible for people in all of the municipalities of Northern Berkshire to attend. The annual Neighborhood Expo provides a broader-based opportunity for inspiration and support for community organizing and neighborhood action planning.

Neighborlies – Community Recognition Awards Ceremony – happen in April and October of each year – recognizing residents for Neighborly Acts, Groups Pulling Together, and Business/Agency Support. Neighborhood programs like nbStep Dance, After-school programs, Summer Basketball, and National Night Out Celebrations bring people together in creative, fun ways to learn and grow. NBN provides support for a Foster Family Connections support group, as well as collaboration with MCLA students as Friends for Foster Families.



Financial Report

The following is a Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011 for the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Inc.

Revenue*

State Contracts	\$300,000
Federal Contracts	\$112,086
Misc. Income & Contributions	\$30,462
Local Grants	\$43,024
Local Charities & Foundations	\$29,543
Total Revenue	\$515,115

Expenses*

Administration	\$93,734
Program Expenses	\$324,378
Office Maintenance & Expenses	\$75,161
Subcontracted Services & Consulting	\$52,809
Total Expenses	\$546,082

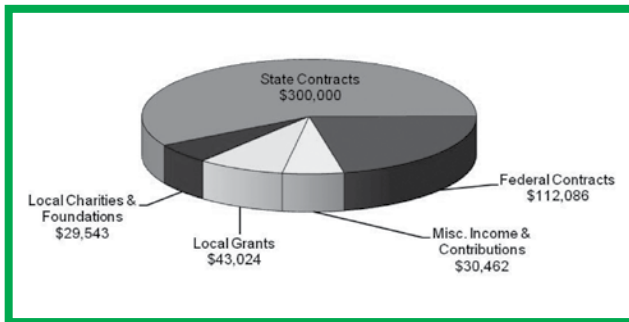
Net Revenue - \$30,967

Net Assets

Net Assets, July 1, 2010 (Audited)	\$386,454
Net Revenue	-\$ 30,967
Net Assets, June 30, 2011	\$355,487

*Projected revenue and expenses through June 30, 2011.

2011 Revenue Chart



nbCC is a member agency of:



Coalition Supporters

The Coalition thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous support as contributors in the 2010 calendar year. Many thanks as well to those who chose to remain anonymous.

LEADERS: 3 Anonymous Donations to support Teen Writing Workshop • Adams Co-Operative Bank • Berkshire Bank • Gene & Justyna Carlson • Greylock Federal Credit Union • Hoosac Bank • James & Joan Hunter • Alice Shaver Foundation

GUARDIANS: William Bashevkin • Berkshire Children & Families • Ellen Bernstein • Steve Green & Sue Walker • Williams College to support Teen Writing Workshop

BENEFACTORS: Osmin & Monica Alvarez • Robert & Barbara Bashevkin • Berkshire Life Insurance Company • BFAIR • Cathy Crosky • Mark Gold & Ellen Kennedy

BOOSTERS: 1199SEIU at NARH • Joe Apkin • Irving Bashevkin • Al Bashevkin & Nancy Pearlman • Steve & Polly Birrell • Robert Calway • Gailanne Cariddi • Stuart & Susan Crampton • Paul Donovan • Thomas & Ellen Ennis • Excelsior Printing Company • Manny & Shirley Finkelstein • Henry & Mary Flynt • Renee Fuller • Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson • Martin Greenstein • Bruce & Judith Grinnell • Lawrence & Marcia Gross • Dorothea Hanson • Pamela Hawkins • Stuart & Myra Hirschhorn • Sander & Mary Kelman • William & Denise Kober • John Law • Joseph Manning • Al & Nancy Marden • Mass Rehab. Commission In Memory of Bill Boland • Arlon & Anne Nelson • Scott & Valerie Nichols • John Notsley • Nancy Nysten • Debbie Rosselli • Maynard Seider • Tony Siracusa • Sam & Elizabeth Smith • Smith Bros. McAndrews Insurance • South Adams Savings Bank • Richard Spalding • John & Jid Sprague • St. John's Episcopal Church • James Stakenas & Paula Cardinal • Michael & Sally Sussman • Christopher Thomas & Kelli Newby • Carl Westerdahl and Susan Clarke • Herb Wilkinson • Alex Willingham • Florence Wineberg • Bill & Adrienne Wootters • Susan Yates-Mulder

ASSOCIATES: Anthony & MaryAnn Abuisi • Kate Annichiarico • Bob & Carolyn Behr • Alma Benedetti • Susan Birns • Sam & Maggie Bittman • Ronald & Cynthia Bosley • Stanley & Maralyn Brown • Andrew & Sue Budz • Ray Burke • Ann Cain • Mary Campanardi • Adelaide Chuckrow • Robert Dean • Jean Donati • Patrick Dunlavey & Heather Williams • Carl & Marilyn Faulkner • H.A. George & Sons Fuel Corp. • Paul Gitterman • Brad & Kristen Gordon • Marion Grillon • Sherwood & Carol Guernsey • Robert & Beverly Hertzog • Nicholas & Katherine Hruch • Julia Janowski • Lawrence & Hulda Jowett • James & Alison Kolesar • Louis & Shirley Lescarbeau • Little's HSC Pharmacy • Nancy McIntire • Peter Murphy & Audrey Their • Gail Nelson • Nancy O'Brien • Papyri Books • Henry & Meg Pierpan • Leonard Radin • Judith Reichert • David & Donna Rempell • David Richardson & Alice Hadley • Mark Rondeau • Irwin & Bernice Shainman • Sisters of St. Joseph • Susan Smith • Judith Summers • Stuart & Mary Sutherland • Ken Swiatek • Wayne & Suki Wilkins • Tom & Peggy Wolff

SUPPORTERS: Bernice Alcombright • John & Jane Allen • Alison Basdekis • William Berkowitz • Norman Bianco • Patrice Bolgen • Fred & Margaret Bozek • Adriana Brown • Timothy Carlson • Edward & Anne Conroy • Edward & Rachel Corbett • Mark & Karen Daigle • Keith Davis • Shirley Davis • Mike Deep & Ellen Millard • Marilyn DeRosa • Dale Fink • Hugh & Laurie Glover • Harry & Marjorie Horn • Paul & Doris Hutchinson • Carl & Jane Jenkins • Janet Keep • Gloria LaFlamme • Roberta Lamb • Lorraine Maloney • Richard & Donella Markham • Jean Marra • Kayta Miller • Roberta Patten • Don & Nancy Pecor • Daniel Perreault & Joyce O'Brien • Patricia Polumbo • Meghan Robertson • Joe & Jan Rogge • Albert & Barbara Rondeau • Stephen & Laura Rondeau • Mary Rosasco • Ann Rosse • Marcia Sarrouf • Walter Schrenck-Szill • Walter & Felicia Skowronski • Richard & Gwen Steege • Mary Sugden & Richard Lescarbeau • Gary & Sandra Tatro • Kurt & Gwen Tauber • Brenda Thomas • Melvin & Marilyn Tierman • Eugene Wein • Richard Weisenflue & Elizabeth Nichols In Memory of Bill Boland • Charles & Mary Welch • Eric & Linda White • Howard & Deborah Wineberg • Julia Wolfrum • Marcia Wright • Dolores Zabek

Thank you, we can't do it without you!

More things you've helped us accomplish!

Monthly Forums - Our unique forums bring together a caring network of over seventy people every month. We address issues that the community brings forward and feature wide-ranging discussions about issues that impact the community.



Martin Luther King "Day of Service" - Volunteers of all ages come together to honor the life of Martin Luther King by participating in food and clothing drives to benefit local needs, and service projects to better our community.

Summer Youth Basketball League - A popular neighborhood summer program which stresses sportsmanship and teamwork, and encourages the players to do their best and have fun, cooperate, and support one another.



Prescription Drug Round Up - nbCC participated in another innovative program designed to keep expired and unused drugs out of the hands of young people, who often mistakenly think these drugs are safer than so-called street drugs.

Drug Free Community Support Program Leads to Significant Reduction in Youth Substance Use. - Since 2001, we've received funding to help us with our work on reducing youth substance use. It has supported our UNITY youth programs, work in local neighborhoods, our youth survey conducted in middle and high schools and our local strategy teams who help to educate the community about the risks of substance abuse among young people. For example, we have seen a 30% decrease of 30 day alcohol use by our 12th graders.



Friendship Center Food Pantry - The Interfaith Action Initiative, created as a result of a monthly forum, has opened a food pantry in mid February with the support of BCAC, and many good-hearted individuals. This movement towards service and philanthropy is heartwarming to see.

City of North Adams Youth Commission - The Youth Commission was conceived after members of nbCC's Youth Leadership Program approached Mayor Alcombright last year to share their concerns/ideas with him. With the support of the Mayor, City Councilor Michael Boland, and nbCC staff, the Youth Commission has been approved and is composed of 10 youth members, and five adult members.



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

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