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Victories 2011: Make the Road New York Builds the Power of Latino and Working Class Communities Through Organizing, Transformative Education, Policy Innovation and the Provision of Survival Services

Make the Road New York

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Victories 2011: Make the Road New York Builds the Power of Latino and Working Class Communities Through Organizing, Transformative Education, Policy Innovation and the Provision of Survival Services

Abstract

Brochure listing Make the Road New York's victories during 2011.

Keywords

unions, labor movement, organizing, New York, representation, AFL-CIO

Comments

Suggested Citation

Make the Road New York. (2011). *Victories 2011: Make the Road New York builds the power of latino and working class communities through organizing, transformative education, policy innovation and the provision of survival services*. Brooklyn, NY: Author.

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**MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK
BUILDS THE POWER OF
LATINO AND WORKING CLASS
COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE
DIGNITY AND JUSTICE
THROUGH ORGANIZING,
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION,
POLICY INNOVATION AND
THE PROVISION OF
SURVIVAL SERVICES.**

In 2011, Make the Road New York (MRNY) experienced unprecedented growth, expansion and achievement. We won significant victories at the City level, passing several new laws to protect students, tenants and immigrant families. And, we expanded our impact statewide, both through innovative policy making and geographically.

Our membership now includes more than 10,000 dues-paying individuals and 150 small businesses. Through our a new center in Brentwood, the heart of Long Island's immigrant community, we recruited 400 new members and mobilized 9,000 voters in the November elections, increasing electoral participation in county elections by 23%. More than 13,000 people actively participated with MRNY by speaking at public hearings and press conferences, attending community meetings and rallies, and joining large events like MRNY's Democracy Day and our 2nd Annual Walk for Immigrant New York, in which walkers also raised \$75,000 in small donations.

Through the power of our collective voice, MRNY is making lasting changes that move New York—and our country—forward.

IN 2011, MRNY AND OUR STAFF RECEIVED THE RECOGNITION OF:

Edna Award of the Berger Marks Foundation

Felix A. Fishman Award of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Frederick Douglass Award of the North Star Fund

VICTORIES 2011



VICTORIES

KEEPING NEW YORKERS SAFE

Responding to direct action and advocacy by MRNY and our coalition, Governor Cuomo suspended New York State's participation in the misguided Secure Communities program, which erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities by mandating information sharing between local governments and the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). Now, immigrants are now more likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses and seek vital health services, which makes all New Yorkers safer.

At the city level, following years of courageous work by MRNY members, Mayor Bloomberg signed into law Intro 656, in order to limit the City's collaboration with ICE and halt the dragnet approach to immigration enforcement. By ending the practice of holding individuals for deportation who pose no threat to public safety, the new law prevents thousands of unjust deportations every year, saves tens of millions of NYC taxpayer dollars, and helps to rebuild trust between City government and millions of New York's immigrants.



LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST WAGE THEFT

MRNY celebrated the implementation of the Wage Theft Prevention Act (WTPA), historic state legislation drafted and spearheaded by MRNY, which makes New York a leader in the fight to eradicate wage theft. While wage theft—the nonpayment or underpayment of minimum and overtime wages—is rampant throughout the U.S., the WTPA now protects hundreds of thousands of New York workers every year with strong penalties for employers who flout the law, while protecting workers who stand up for their rights and delivering workers the money they are owed.

★ Leading the implementation of the Wage Theft Prevention Act, in 2011, MRNY trained 450 low-wage workers, 200 ESOL students, 60 small business owners and 250 attorneys in how to uphold workers' rights, and ensure compliance with the new law.

★ MRNY provided critical legal services to more than 3,100 families, helping to prevent evictions, preserve key income supports, access health care and fight wage theft.





FORGING EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS

MRNY's 12 years of organizing, research, coalition work, and legal action prompted Governor Cuomo to sign into law Executive Order 26, which requires all New York State agencies to provide essential interpretation and translation services. The new law ensures equal access to all State programmatic services, protecting and supporting the millions of immigrant families, patients and students who are in the process of learning English.

★ Governor Cuomo selected MRNY's Director of Health Advocacy to join the Medicaid Redesign Team Health Disparities Taskforce to build on our groundbreaking language access work and develop comprehensive statewide policies to eliminate health disparities among immigrants.

MANDATING HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

MRNY spearheaded the passage of new legislation that gives thousands of tenants living in substandard apartments essential new protections and cracks down on dangerous housing conditions that trigger asthma, including rats, roaches and mold. If a negligent landlord doesn't comply with the new regulations and remediate these housing violations, the City will make the repairs, using non-toxic methods, and charge landlords for the work.

★ MRNY helped lead the statewide effort to ensure affordable housing and bolster rent regulations, prompting legislators to extend and—for the first time in 18 years—strengthen the laws that protect the more than one million New Yorkers living in rent-regulated housing.

PRESERVING DIGNITY FOR STUDENTS AND LGBTQ

MRNY's youth leaders won passage of the *Student Safety Act*, which promotes transparency on school discipline and policing policies, protecting the safety and dignity of New York City's 1.1 million public school students. This new legislation requires the Department of Education and the NYPD to regularly report how discipline policies are affecting students based on their race, gender, language, grade level and special education status—helping NYC to develop solutions that work for all students.

★ MRNY's research prompted the City to pass legislation requiring the Department of Education to provide comprehensive data on schools' capacity and overcrowding, in order to ensure that students are receiving a quality education and have access to the facilities they need.

★ MRNY helped to expand the City's "Respect for All" initiative to several Brooklyn and Queens high schools. This essential curriculum combats bullying and bias-based discrimination in the school environment, helping to make our schools a place of safety and tolerance for LGBTQ students.

★ MRNY launched the citywide Campaign for Fair and Just Policing to end the NYPD's discriminatory Stop-Question-Frisk policies that unfairly criminalize youth, LGBTQ and communities of color.



PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

★ MRNY's Adult Literacy programs helped 1,637 adults to learn English, develop literacy and computer skills, train in workplace health and safety, earn a GED, or become citizens.

★ MRNY's Student Success Center helped 80% of graduating seniors at four Bushwick high schools apply to college, with a 97% acceptance rate.

★ Our Workforce Development program placed 114 individuals in jobs with an hourly average wage of \$12.20, trained 333 individuals for job readiness, and provided quality one-on-one employment counseling to 370 job seekers.

COMMUNITY & ELECTORAL ORGANIZING

- Civil Rights and Immigrant Power
- Education Justice
- Environmental and Housing Justice
- LGBTQ Justice
- Small Business United
- Workplace Justice
- Voter Power

ADULT LITERACY

- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Spanish Language Literacy
- Computer Literacy
- Citizenship Preparation and Civics
- Spanish GED

YOUTH POWER

- Youth Organizing
- Arts and Media
- School Partnerships
- College Access Support

LEGAL SERVICES & LITIGATION

- Government and Disability Benefits
- Health Care and Health Insurance Access
- Housing
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Labor and Employment
- LGBTQ Civil Rights
- Public Education

SURVIVAL SERVICES

- Emergency Food Pantry
- HIV Testing and Disease Prevention
- Health Insurance Enrollment
- Peer Health Outreach and Education

COMMUNITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Job Training and Placement
- Specialized Job Skills Trainings
- Small Business and Worker Cooperative Incubation

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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