

MERRIMACK VALLEY PROJECT

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT –DIRECTOR/LEAD ORGANIZER

Overview

The Merrimack Valley Project (MVP) is searching for a new Director /Lead Organizer. Founded in 1992, MVP unites congregations, union locals, and community groups in organizing campaigns for social and economic justice in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts. The Director /Lead Organizer will work with a team of talented leaders to advance effective, broad-based organizing campaigns to improve the quality of life in Valley communities. Our current priorities are Immigrant Justice, Economic Justice, Substance Use Disorder Advocacy, and Environmental Justice.

History and Accomplishments

The Merrimack Valley Project was created by a group of faith, labor, and community leaders to unite people in common action across the region's widening racial, ethnic, and economic rifts. Through MVP, diverse leaders from center-city immigrant communities, mainline suburban congregations, union locals, and community groups have worked together to win major victories, improving the lives of thousands of poor and working-poor Valley residents. Most recently these have included:

1. Winning a State Budget amendment to fund a pilot program, Wheels of Hope, to transport people struggling with opioid addiction into treatment, at no cost to them.
2. In coalition, passing the Fair Share Law [aka the Millionaires' Tax] intended to raise \$2 billion per year for education and public transportation, and working to protect the law in this year's State Budget, and
3. Working as the regional leader for passage of the Immigrant Drivers' License law (to enable all immigrants to earn licenses regardless of immigration status), and its implementation this July.

Today MVP has grown to over 20 member groups in Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill and surroundings. MVP places a strong emphasis on developing the capacity of faith communities to act on their commitments to social justice, and is part of a growing faith-and-values-based organizing movement in America. The Project also builds power for working families through its long-term partnership with organized labor.

Responsibilities

- Recruit and develop leaders from a diverse membership of religious, labor, and community organizations in the Merrimack Valley, and work with these leaders to strengthen MVP's power.
- Help the MVP Executive Board prepare, fund, and oversee a budget of \$175,000+ per year. This includes identification of funding resources, grant research, program design, proposal writing, training leaders to conduct successful grassroots fundraising campaigns, membership dues collection, and consistent and effective foundation fundraising.

- Develop and maintain relationships with leaders of current and potential MVP member organizations.
- Provide staffing for organizing campaigns on economic and social justice issues including, but not limited to: immigration, jobs and workers' rights, affordable housing, mass incarceration, the opioid crisis, affordable energy and other issues important to MVP's constituency.
- Provide staffing for three monthly Chapter meetings (Haverhill, Lawrence & Lowell), for the yearly Delegates Assembly, and for the Annual Convention.
- Hire, supervise, and mentor other MVP staff. These may include staff organizers, office staff, and student interns.
- Maintain a working relationship with, and help to support the InterValley Project, especially in its role of developing leadership in members and staff.

Qualifications

- ❖ Minimum 2-4 years work experience as a community-based, congregation-based, political, or labor organizer.
- ❖ Passion for social and economic justice, and a strong commitment to faith-and-values-based organizing.
- ❖ Experience supervising and developing other organizers and support staff, for their own growth and for the growth of the organization.
- ❖ Cultural competence to work in a multi-faith, multi-racial environment.
- ❖ Proven ability to train leaders and to carry out successful issue campaigns.
- ❖ Demonstrated track record in both grant writing and grassroots fund-raising.
- ❖ Excellent team-building and communication skills, high energy, and strong abilities in one-to-one relationship-building.
- ❖ Ability to oversee a variety of administrative and management tasks.
- ❖ Flexibility for occasional weekend/evening events
- ❖ Experience working with diverse immigrant communities; bilingual ability in Spanish strongly preferred; bilingual ability in Portuguese or Khmer a plus.
- ❖ Curiosity and a sense of humor are welcomed assets.
- ❖ Basic abilities with Word, Excel, Google docs, Zoom, and social media

Terms of Placement

Competitive salary with benefits, commensurate with experience. The position will stay open until filled. Please send resume and cover letter as soon as possible to:

Tom Raiche
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