Part VI of the Tools to Engage Webinar Series

Engaging Constituents, Addressing Root Causes: Food Banks and Beyond
Today’s Agenda

I. Introductions
II. Framework of a Movement to End Poverty
III. Tools & Application
IV. Lessons, Challenges & Changes
V. Questions and Answers
VI. Additional Resources
Meet Randi Quackenbush

Director of Community Impact
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Meet Lyndsey Lyman

Advocacy & Education Manager
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Meet Alicia Swords

Associate Professor of Sociology
Ithaca College
About the **Building Movement Project**

**Leadership**
Analyzing how organizations can do their best work by promoting the most effective and inclusive practices

- **Reports**
  - Race to Lead: Confronting the Nonprofit Racial Leadership Gap
- **Blog**
  - The Leadership in Leaving
- **Reports**
  - Vision for Change

**Service and Social Change**
Developing the capacity of organizations to engage constituents in changing the systems that impact them

- **Tools**
  - Service and Social Change
- **Blog**
  - Small Shifts, Big Change
- **Reports**
  - Crossing Organizational Boundaries to Build New Partnerships

**Movement Building**
Acknowledging and building on the distinct role of nonprofit organizations in advancing movements for social change

- **Reports**
  - The Respect ABQ Women Campaign
- **Blog**
  - Learning How to ACT UP
- **Blog**
  - Detroiters Reclaiming Voice and Power

[Building Movement Project](www.tools2engage.org)
What We Believe

- Services are essential to communities, but services alone aren’t enough to address root causes.
- A combination of policy advocacy and other systems change activities and individual advocacy can produce lasting change.
- Service providers understand systemic and structural barriers.
- Service agencies have unparalleled reach into communities impacted by disinvestment and marginalization.
- Those closest to the problems should be closest to the power.
About the **Food Bank of the Southern Tier**

**Member of FEEDING AMERICA**

**Catholic Charities**

**Working together to build & sustain hunger-free communities throughout the Southern Tier.**

Serving Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties.
FRAMEWORK OF A MOVEMENT TO END POVERTY
Connections with the **Movement to End Poverty**

Building Movement Project
www.tools2engage.org
A Movement to **End Poverty Today**

[KAIROS](https://www.kairos.org) - THE CENTER FOR RELIGIONS, RIGHTS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

[end poverty initiative.org](https://povertyinitiative.org)

[Building Movement Project](http://www.tools2engage.org)

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[Pedagogy of the Poor](https://www.pedagogyofthepoor.com) by Willie Baptist & Jan Rehmann

[It's Not Enough to be Angry](https://www.itsonenoughtobeangry.com) by Willie Baptist

[Always with Us? What Jesus Really Said about the Poor](https://www.alwayswithusbook.com) by Liz Theoharis

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The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
Situating Ourselves in the Movement

Internal analysis:
Drawing on mentoring from the Poverty Initiative, Kairos Center and University of the Poor, we believe poverty is systemic.
- Inequality is growing
- Ownership is concentrating
- Jobs are being eliminated

Ending poverty requires a movement.
Current stage: identifying and cultivating leaders
TOOLS & APPLICATION
Two Feet of Catholic Social Teaching

Charity
- provides direct service: food, clothing, shelter
- directed at the effects of injustice (symptoms)
- short-term relief

Justice
- promotes social change in institutions
- directed at the root causes of injustice
- long-term solutions

Catholic Charities

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Collective Impact Framework

who is at the table? traditional

Content experts
- technical knowledge

Context experts
- lived experience

Buy-In

who is at the table? – CI

Content experts and Context experts
- technical knowledge
- lived experience

Ownership
- plans and decisions
Community Focus Groups

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Speakers Bureau Curriculum

- Storytelling Circle
- Public Speaking
- **Stress Management / Self-care**
- Food Bank field trip
- Poverty 101 & the Economy
- Advocacy 101
- Asset mapping
- Narrative change
- Working with media
- Graduation!
Speakers Engagement

Officials urge Cuomo to sign Farm to Food bill

Catherine Rogers, of Barten, said the access to nutritious, health food is vital and a basic right of everyone. Food Bank of the Southern Tier President Natasha Thompson, Assemblyman Francisco Moya, D-Queens and Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, D-Brooklyn, stand next to Rogers during the event. Jeff Smith/The Leader
LESSONS, CHALLENGES, AND CHANGES
Lessons Learned and Challenges

Challenge: SB Grads looking to FBST staff for direction.

Lesson: Start building autonomy and peer support ASAP. Being a leader means developing other leaders.

Challenge: Finding the right partner for hosting

Lesson: Screen potential partner/host agencies for their analysis of the problem & depth of relationship with “clients”

Challenge: Identifying which resources and perspectives are useful to advance our work and our thinking

Lesson: Vet resources with the following criteria in mind:
- Believe that poverty can be ended, not just ameliorated
- Believe that poor people have power and knowledge and can organize themselves
Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenge: Mental & emotional energy required to do this work well

Lesson: Requires Trauma Informed Care Principles and a support team surrounding the person or people leading this work.

Challenge: Bringing folks with lived experience and service providers together

Lesson: Try to prepare both parties ahead of time. Warn service providers that negative feedback ≠ personal attack, = critique of the system.

Challenge: Internalized oppression fueled by individualism and the “bootstrap” model

Lesson: Start political education early, including one-on-one conversations that contradict participants’ internalized oppression. Do our own work to process our own internalized oppression.
Continuing to Develop Our Internal Analysis

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth…and say “This is not just.”

–Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Time to Break Silence,”
Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967

Truly ending poverty requires a movement!

Current stage: identifying and cultivating leaders
We use stories to connect people, show they are not alone, and cultivate leadership.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Additional Resources

• Client / constituent engagement Community of Practice
• Swords, 2019. “Action research on organizational change with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier: a regional food bank’s efforts to move beyond charity.”
  https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-019-09949-8
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Questions? Comments? Want to learn more?
Contact nmann@buildingmovement.org