A look back. And a bold look ahead.

AIM
ACTION IN MONTGOMERY

2022
Message from AIM Co-Chairs

Dear AIM Leaders and Supporters:

First of all, THANK YOU. It has been a year of growth, development, new alliances, candidate actions, and winning on issues that address the systemic inequities in our county and state.

As always, the center of our work has been building relationships across racial, geographical, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We overcame isolation and separation to listen, learn, and rediscover our common values and goals for a more just Montgomery and Maryland.

This year, we have accomplished more than we anticipated. We have grown our staff and capacity, tested the waters of statewide power, and won campaigns on both small and large scales. We are poised to be at the center of making our county and state a more equitable place for everyone to live.

Thank you for the role(s) you have played, whether organizing listening sessions, supporting our work financially, building relationships with other leaders in AIM, asking political candidates tough questions, leading actions, writing emails, making phone calls, or any of the countless other ways leaders help us to win real change in our communities.

Sincerely,

Diana Bird, Linda Bleadingheiser, Rev. Michael Armstrong
AIM Co-Chairs
What is AIM?

AIM is a people’s power organization working across race, socioeconomic background, faith, and geography to win on issues of justice for low- and moderate-income communities in Montgomery County, Maryland.

We train and develop leaders to act and win on the issues that are most important to everyday people in our communities.

Over the past 20+ years, we have won more than $1.1 Billion for affordable housing, quality afterschool programs for hundreds of students, new schools and community centers in communities of color that have been left behind for generations, and much more. In addition, AIM was key to passing the Dream Act in Maryland.

AIM’s Impact in 2022

Expanded Afterschool Programs

Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary was expanded to 14 schools by January 2023, serving hundreds of low-income students and families every weekday with academics, enrichment, a hot dinner, and parent organizing to address local issues.

Increased Affordable Housing

The County Council and Executive, with support from AIM, increased funding for subsidizing and developing affordable housing to over $120M. This puts the total AIM has won over the past 20 years to more than $1.1 BILLION! We also won a commitment to build affordable housing on the Chevy Chase Library when it is redeveloped.

Expanded Dental Care

AIM secured $100,000 in specialized dental care for uninsured adults in Montgomery County.

Delivering for Local Communities

Tenants across Montgomery County have successfully organized to win local victories on community safety, restoring bus service, building renovations, and more!

Police Reform

AIM leaders won improvements to the new Police Accountability Board, board member compensation, funding for full-time board staff, and ensuring the board reflects the diversity of the county.
The Cycle of Organizing

Listening
All of AIM’s organizing starts with listening to everyday people share what keeps their family and community from thriving. In 2022 AIM completed its countywide listening campaign with 1500+ members of our congregations, schools, and neighborhoods, across race, socioeconomic background, religion, age, and geography. The listening built community, strengthened our organizations, and identified common issues and new leaders.

Problem
Action Teams research how to effectively address the problems identified through listening. Teams from across congregations, schools and geography met with top experts and visited existing programs in education, housing, healthcare, climate justice, and more.

Issue
We identify specific, measurable improvements to create AIM’s “People’s Agenda,” prioritizing issues that further racial and economic justice and working with committed leaders from our communities who have the power to win and make significant impact.

Action
Public action is key to making real community improvements. Through strength in numbers, we put pressure on the people who have the power to act and make our Agenda real, asking them for specific commitments.

Every level of office was up for election in Maryland in 2022. We took our People’s Agenda to the 50+ candidates for County Council and Executive, and to the statewide candidates for Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller. We also led local actions every month around affordable housing, community safety, housing quality, dental care, and more.

Evaluation
We are constantly evaluating the effectiveness of our training, actions and campaigns, and whether or the community is experiencing measurable improvements. If not, we identify and act on new strategies.

Learn more about Action in Montgomery (AIM).
AIM People’s Goals for 2022-2025

- Universal PreK
- Dental Care for the Uninsured
- Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing
- Increased Access to College Funding
- Housing Quality and Stabilization for Low-Income Residents
- Expanded Afterschool Programming
- Climate Justice—Equitable Implementation of Green Solutions

Expansion of AIM

For our 20th Anniversary in 2020 we launched a donor campaign to expand our staff and organizing in low-income communities. Thanks to generous support from individuals and foundations, we now have four full-time staff, plus a part-time neighborhood organizer and a half-time administrator!

Another top goal for 2022 was to expand our statewide work. In partnership with our sister organizations, PATH in Howard County and ACT in Anne Arundel County, we held actions with statewide candidates for Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller in both the June Primary and November General Election.

The candidates made significant commitments to us on our agenda, and we continue to organize the people power required with the goal of winning on Universal Pre-K, Climate Justice, and Affordable Housing statewide.
Thank you to our members!

AIM Members
Arts on the Block
Beloved Community at Asbury United Methodist Village
Bethesda Friends Meeting
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda
Colesville United Methodist Church, Silver Spring
Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Silver Spring
Harvest Intercontinental Church, Olney
Islamic Center of Maryland
Jewish Community Relations Council
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Potomac
The People’s Community Baptist Church
River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda
Safe Places of Cider Mills Tenants’ Union
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville
S.E.A. Change Coalition of B’nai Israel and Washington Hebrew Congregation
St. Camillus Catholic Church, Silver Spring
St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Gaithersburg
Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, Takoma Park
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, Takoma Park
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, Bethesda

Burnt Mills Elementary
Cresthaven Elementary
Gaithersburg Elementary
Georgian Forest Elementary
Greencastle Elementary
Harmony Hills Elementary
JoAnn LeLeck at Broad Acres Elementary
New Hampshire Estates Elementary
Oak View Elementary
Roscoe Nix Elementary
South Lake Elementary
Weller Road Elementary
Wheaton Woods Elementary
Whetstone Elementary

It’s quick and easy to support AIM, learn how!
Thank you to our supporters!

Marion Ballard
Ray and Ellen Battistelli
Maurine and Henry Beasley
Alex Bell and Ronald Gibson
Wetteroth
Frank and Jacqueline Bevacqua
Diana Bird
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E. Marie Wilson
Ralph Wooden
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Joan Zenny
Katie Zinler

Foundation and Business Funders for 2022

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Children's Opportunity Fund
Climate Imperative
Energy Foundation
Hazan Foundation

Meyer Foundation
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Roberts Oxygen
Wells Fargo Foundation
Westmoreland UCC Social Justice and Action
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