

Welcome!

OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE STARTS ON THE RIVER

SO MUCH OF WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO IS EXPLAINED IN THE RIVER STORY. AS THE STORY GOES*: A PERSON WALKS UP TO THE RIVER AND SEES SOMEONE DROWNING SO THEY JUMP IN TO SAVE THEM, BUT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE FLOATING DOWNRIVER DROWNING. SO MORE PEOPLE JUMP IN TO SAVE THEM BUT PEOPLE JUST KEEP DROWNING. FINALLY SOMEONE SAYS *LET'S WALK UPRIVER TO SEE WHY ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE FALLING IN AND DROWNING IN THE FIRST PLACE*. THEY SEE THAT THE BRIDGE IS BROKEN SO THEY FIX THAT AND PEOPLE STOP DROWNING ALTOGETHER.

ADVOCACY WORK IS OUR WAY OF WALKING UPRIVER TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS IN OUR GOVERNMENT, OUR COMMUNITY, AND OUR CULTURE THAT ARE SENDING PEOPLE TO OUR FOOD PANTRY TO BEGIN WITH. IF ALL PEOPLE WERE WELL CARED FOR IN SOCIETY, SAY WITH FAIR WAGES, MEDICAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND AFFORDABLE LIVING, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR FOOD BANKS.

RACIAL INJUSTICE IS STITCHED INTO EVERY SYSTEM AND MEANS BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY SOCIETAL FAILURES LIKE HUNGER AND POVERTY. THIS IS A PART OF THE REASON THAT THE HUNGER COALITION IS COMMITTED TO ANTI-RACISM AND JEDI WORK BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

**IN A ROUGH RE-TELLING OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, SAUL ALINKSY'S ORIGINAL PARABLE*

JEDI WORK: AN ACRONYM FOR JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION.

ANTI-RACISM: THE POLICY OR PRACTICE OF OPPOSING RACISM AND PROMOTING RACIAL TOLERANCE. **OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY*

