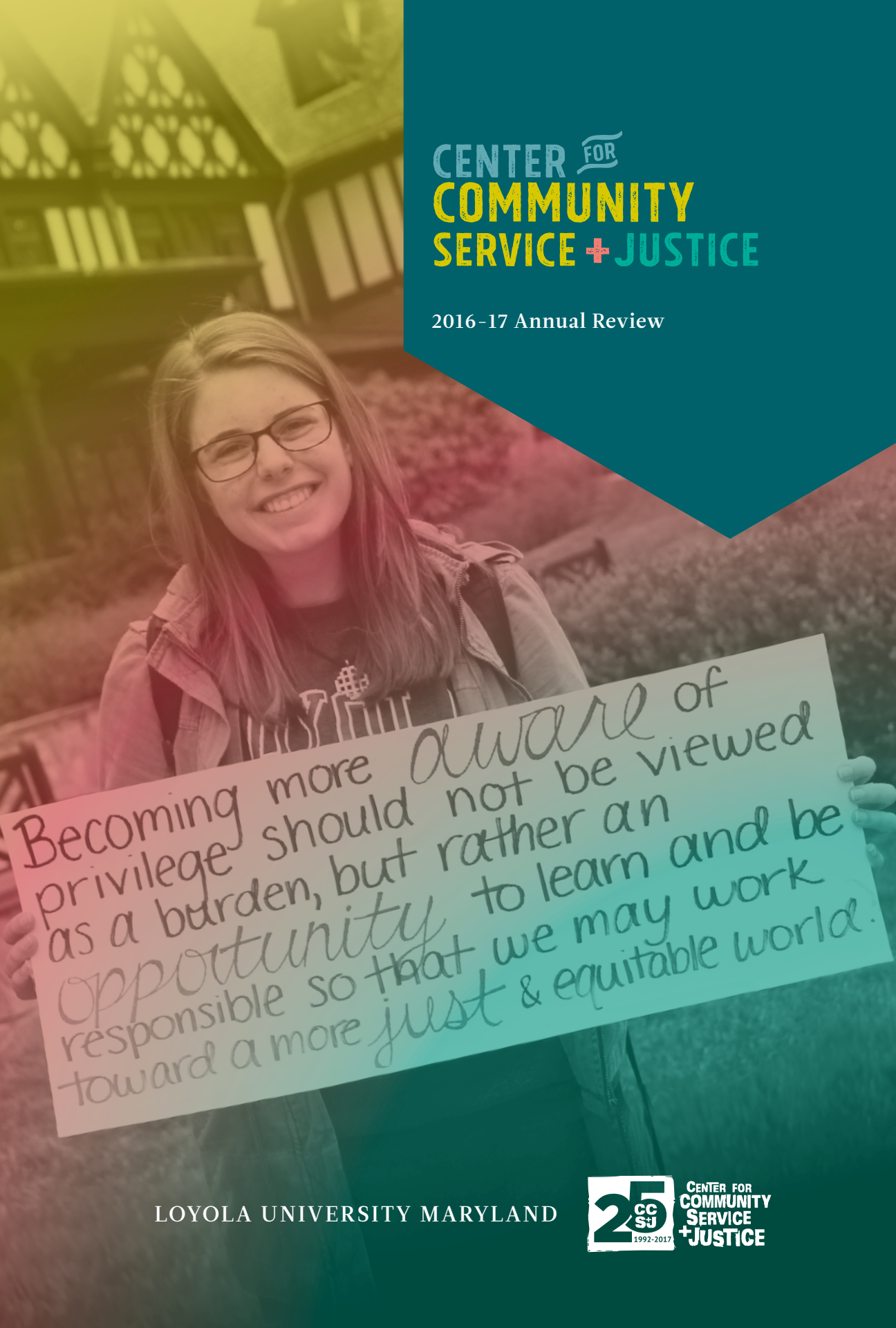


# CENTER <sup>FOR</sup> COMMUNITY SERVICE + JUSTICE

2016-17 Annual Review



Becoming more aware of  
privilege should not be viewed  
as a burden, but rather an  
opportunity to learn and be  
responsible so that we may work  
toward a more just & equitable world.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND



CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE + JUSTICE

# WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE + JUSTICE?

Loyola's Center for Community Service and Justice engages thousands of students, faculty, employees, and alumni to learn, connect, and share resources with community partners to create a more just and equitable world. Inspired by Loyola's Jesuit Catholic educational mission and identity that calls for a dynamic integration of academic excellence, social responsibility, and a faith that does justice, the Center for Community Service and Justice is committed to reciprocal collaboration with community partners and to involvement with people who are marginalized. Through academic courses, community development initiatives, scholarship, service experiences, and social justice programming, the Center for Community Service and Justice aspires to place a shared emphasis on the engagement of Loyola students and faculty, and the pursuit of positive community impact in Loyola's immediate York Road neighborhoods, throughout Baltimore City, and the world.

## **Center for Community Service and Justice aims:**

- Engage Loyola students and faculty to serve, learn, and lead for a more just and equitable world
- Build capacity for positive change in our local York Road community
- Animate Loyola's mission through measuring, highlighting, and communicating our work internally and externally

From academic service-learning courses to immersion experiences in settings from Baltimore to Washington, D.C., to West Virginia to El Salvador, through the Center for Community Service and Justice, students embrace the Loyola core values of community service, diversity, and justice and cultivate life-long habits of service in order to create a more just future for all citizens.

The Center for Community Service and Justice pursues broad, expansive impact through partnerships arising from dozens of academic service-learning courses and co-curricular service partnerships and pursues deep, focused impact through intensive place-based work with community partners pursuing the goals of Loyola's York Road Initiative.

## 2016-2017 HIGHLIGHTS

For 25 years, the Center for Community Service and Justice: connecting Loyola's campus and our Baltimore community and beyond for a more just and equitable world.



Loyola is ranked No. 2 on The Princeton Review's "Best 380 Colleges - 2016 Edition" for Students Most Engaged in Community Service. Loyola is also listed among the top 26 schools in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2016" for service-learning programs.



381 students provided 935 hours of community service with our neighbors on, bi-weekly, Saturday York Road Community Days through planting, greenings, and community strengthening projects.



Through Presence for Christmas, the Loyola community collected 624 gifts and distributed them to 11 community partner agencies serving youth and families in Baltimore.



Held on Loyola's Quadrangle, Loyola students hosted Advocacy Day to connect learning from immersion experiences with action and offer advocacy opportunities for fellow students to engage with policies related to prison reform, civil rights, urban poverty, and environmental issues.



31 Loyola students attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C., to learn about root causes of migration, criminal justice reform, and human rights needs around the globe. 25 of the 31 students completed visits with their U.S. representatives and senators.



70 students, York Road resident leaders, Center for Community Service and Justice employees, and Loyola colleagues participated in 20 hours each of professional racial justice training throughout the year. One student said, "I have been able to explore different concepts related to racial justice and deepen my understanding of the struggles that people of color face and where those problems originated. With this new understanding, I am able to work towards a more racially just community around me."

"The Center for Community Service and Justice connects us with other departments on Loyola's campus that enhance learning both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Our teachers feel more supported when they have help in the classroom, and our students respond really well to having Loyola students."

– COMMUNITY PARTNER

"Loyola students can be seen all over our Govans community throughout the school year working alongside community members to keep our neighborhoods clean. They work hard sweeping, planting trees, working in community gardens, and so much more. Their assistance is invaluable. It's been a priceless partnership."

– COMMUNITY RESIDENT

## *Dear Friends and Partners,*

In January of 2016, I was honored to be asked to serve as director of the Center for Community Service and Justice and integrate Loyola's York Road Initiative into the Center's culture, mission, programs and practices. At that time, Loyola's campus and our local communities were—and still are—grappling with the very real inequities on display in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray. Since our Center's founding 25 years ago, we have aimed to educate students through service to address inequality and advance justice, but the fact is, we have much work to do.

Through anecdotes and data, this annual review highlights many of our efforts to connect campus and community for a more just and equitable world.

You'll see that our Center expanded our mission to include our York Road community development aims, to serve graduate students and undergraduates, and to meet faculty and student desires for community-engaged learning. I am particularly excited by the increase of students volunteering weekly with youth after school and our partnerships to address food access in our local neighborhood.

As we highlight our successes, we continue to recognize our evolving responsibilities as a Center. Our brilliant Jesuit friend and founder quotes William Faulker, "The past is never dead. It is not even past." Likewise, with our partnerships, we must address the history of institutional racism and the shortcomings of our Center and in ourselves. We are committed in the year ahead to work toward becoming an anti-racist organization. Just as we ask for the perspectives, assumptions, and prejudices of our students to be challenged when they engage in service, we hope we can count on you to hold us accountable to advance the Jesuit tradition of a faith that does justice.

With gratitude for your partnership,

***A Message  
from***



*Erin S. O'Keefe*

Director of the Center for Community Service and Justice  
Loyola University Maryland





# 26,019

## CUMULATIVE SERVICE HOURS

# 2,158

## PARTICIPANTS



ACADEMIC  
COMMUNITY-ENGAGED  
LEARNING

21%

ADVOCACY AND  
AWARENESS

12%

PARTICIPANT  
BREAKDOWN

IMMERSIONS

4%

OCCASIONAL  
SERVICE

42%

WEEKLY SERVICE

21%

AY  
2015-16

AY  
2016-17



# 30%

## INCREASE IN STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

# 47

## PEOPLE

### PARTICIPATED IN SPRING BREAK OUTREACH

*“My Selma immersion experience ties directly into my life at Loyola, including my weekly service through CCSJ and my Urban Education class—where civil rights are often discussed. I am seriously considering law school in the future and becoming a civil rights lawyer.”*

## GOVANSTOWNE FARMERS' MARKET



# Accepted

# \$9,500+

in local, state, and federal food assistance benefits.



# 4,000 LBS.

of produce distributed through **FreshCrate** since its start in 2015

Summer meals program fed

# 200

Govans youth





## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Center for Community Service and Justice partners with local Baltimore schools, nonprofit organizations and community groups to offer weekly and one-time service commitments for Loyola students to meet community needs.

In academic year 2016-2017, 901 students, employees, and alumni volunteered 2,781 hours through one-time service opportunities, including monthly York Road Community Days, monthly meals at Beans and Bread Outreach Center and Our Daily Bread, and support of United Way and Special Olympics.

Nearly 450 students participated in weekly voluntary service for a total of 7,144 hours. Valued to community agencies at \$172,456, students committed their time, skills, and energy at least once

a week for two hours. Through our Center's "PARE" model of preparation first, followed by action, reflection and subsequent evaluation, students enhanced their learning through service by contributing individual reflections weekly through an online discussion group and participating in three group reflections each academic semester.

Community partners, including Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, St. Ignatius Loyola High School, Govans Elementary School, GEDCO, Walter P. Carter Elementary School, Esperanza Center, Soccer Without Borders, Refugee Youth Project, Don Miller House, Weinberg Housing and Resource Center, Healthcare for the Homeless and The Choice Program, work with students weekly to address poverty, hunger, homelessness, and increase education.



# IMMERSION PROGRAMS

Center for Community Service and Justice immersion programs facilitate meaningful connections for students, faculty and staff with social justice issues through community-based learning over university academic breaks. In academic year 2016-2017, 47 students, faculty and staff participated in spring break immersions in Baltimore, Md., Selma, Ala., Wheeling, W.Va., and Washington, D.C.

In Baltimore, participants focused on issues of prison and criminal justice reform, visiting the Maryland Women's Correctional Institution and volunteering with programs for returning citizens through Second Chance and Living Classrooms.

Focused on civil rights, in Selma participants attended the annual commemoration of Bloody Sunday, learned about the Voting Rights Act and present-day voter suppression, and volunteered with the Voting Rights Museum and Resurrection Catholic Church.

In West Virginia, participants traveled to various parts of Appalachia to learn about energy and environmental issues. This included visits to the United Mine Workers Association, the Center for Coalfield Justice, and to a mountain-top removal site. Upon return to campus, students organized a call-a-thon to support legislation to improve medical care for retired mine workers, which later gained approval in the legislature.

In Washington, D.C., participants focused on urban poverty, working closely with the Steinbruck Center to learn about affordable housing, homelessness, food insecurity, and challenges faced by undocumented immigrants and segregated neighborhoods through volunteering with D.C. Central Kitchen and other local partners.

Thirty-three incoming members of the Class of 2020 also participated in a three day immersion in Baltimore, learning about our York Road area neighborhoods, meeting resident leaders and their local city council person, visiting city hall, and volunteering with partner organizations on issues of housing discrimination, food access, and civic engagement.



# STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Undergraduate student interns serve a critical link between community partners and Loyola, adding capacity to community agencies to receive volunteers and coordinate services.

In academic year 2016-2017, the Center for Community Service and Justice provided 32 internships to undergraduate students in three distinct areas:

- **Service Coordinators**, student interns who coordinate community service programs and provide preparation, reflection, and evaluation of student volunteers.
- **Publicity Assistants**, student interns who develop print, social, and digital media to promote service and justice work and serve our York Road neighborhood community's publicity and communications needs.
- **Administrative Assistants**, students who provide logistical and administrative support and hospitality for all Center programs and partners.

Working with residents from the Mid-Govans neighborhood association, the publicity assistant team spent 40 hours developing their new logo and brand, learning customer service, client relations, community activism and technical design skills, and helping the association attract new resident leaders.

In addition to meeting the needs of campus and over 50 community partners, student interns receive over 100+ hours of training, including weekly racial justice workshops and reflections.

*“My internship at CCSJ has not only taught me about race, but also about sustainability, patriarchy, identity, and privilege in general. It has given the love in my heart a direction, a path to travel. It has taught me the importance of in-person dialogue, it has taught me to look deeper into structure, it has taught me to be more aware of outcomes, it has taught me to listen better, it has given me hope to continue to fight.”*

– 2016-17 INTERN



# YORK ROAD INITIATIVE

Loyola's York Road Initiative is a place-based community development strategy geographically focused in the Greater Govans/ York Road communities and focused on building area civic capacity and neighborhood leadership, strengthening the York Road commercial corridor, increasing food access, and enhancing youth development and education. Highlights from July 2016 to June 2017 include:

## Building Neighborhood Civic Capacity

Through collaboration with the resident-led York Road Partnership, Loyola provided over 500 hours of workshops for more than 40 Govans residents, including topics of neighborhood revitalization, asset-based community development and racial justice.

## Strengthening the Commercial Corridor

As backbone organization to the York Corridor Collective, a coalition of organizations, Loyola continues to work to implement recommendations of the 2015 York Road Commercial Corridor Action Plan. In 2016, 75 percent of York Road property owners surveyed indicated support for a business improvement district, a primary recommendation of the plan, to structure sustainable infrastructure for the corridor. Through bi-weekly "York Road Community Day" green and clean events, volunteers laid more than two tons of mulch, collected over 4,400 gallons of trash and had an 86 percent increase in volunteer participation over the year before.

## Increasing Food Access

At the Govanstowne Farmers Market, 18 farmers, food and craft vendors, and 26 local non-profits resource organizations served the

needs of 300 weekly customers providing fresh produce to local seniors and families, incubating new local vendors, and revitalizing the York Road corridor. Between June and September, the market accepted more than \$9,500 in local, state, and federal food assistance benefits, Govans neighbors purchased over \$2,500 worth of fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, and the summer meals program fed more than 200 Govans youth.

The FreshCrate healthy corner store program has distributed more than 4,000 pounds of produce to four partner corner stores along York Road. Through a partnership with Loyola's dining company, Parkhurst, store owners purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at cost and sell at lower prices to residents to ensure year-round healthy food access.

## Enhancing Youth Development and Education

In addition to supporting after-school programs and neighborhood school coalitions, 10 Govans high school youth workers joined the Govanstowne Farmers' market's nutrition education program, managing the free summer meals programs for kids 18 and under. 30 summer camp scholarships for local Govans elementary-aged youth were awarded to help improve academic retention and preparedness over the summer. At partners Walter P. Carter Elementary Middle School and Guilford Elementary Middle School, Loyola's AmeriCorps member served 189 Govans-area youth through academic enrichment programs and developed \$9,625 worth of resources for the two neighborhood schools. The Govans swim program hosted by Loyola's club swim team served 15 Govans-area youth with 180 hours of pool safety training over six weeks.



## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING & SCHOLARSHIP

*“Compelling students to consider complex multicultural, ethical, and social justice issues lays the groundwork for them to pursue their academic excellence beyond the classroom; service-learning makes those issues palpable in ways that facilitate the education of the whole person. By engaging with community, students begin to envision how they might contribute to a greater good.”*

— FACULTY MEMBER

### QUOTES FROM OUR STUDENTS

*“My work and education at CCSJ changed an ignorant 19-year-old, who thought he held all the answers to all the world’s problems, into a humble, kinder, well-educated, and passionate man.”*

*“My work with CCSJ has shown me the beauty of community service work. My experience made me re-examine the status quo and showed me how the world is bigger than ourselves.”*

*“I’ve learned how small communities coming together can make a difference. I see myself as a member of the Loyola community, the Baltimore community, and even the global community.”*

The Center for Community Service and Justice works in partnership with Loyola’s academic affairs division to help faculty and students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels connect academic endeavors with community goals in mutually beneficial partnerships.

During academic year 2016-2017, 30 faculty taught 53 service-learning course sections in which 453 students engaged in approximately 20 hours of service-learning with community agencies as part of their coursework.

Professor Nina Guise-Gerrity’s and Professor Andrea Leary’s classes in Philosophy and Writing partnered with Tunbridge Public Charter School in our York Road community. A number of Loyola students served weekly as classroom assistants at the school, and others participated in projects such as writing and editing a school newsletter with the Tunbridge learners and creating handmade books from their original fables.

As part of the reading intervention program at Guilford Elementary/Middle School in our York Road community, 29 of Professor Lisa Schoenbrodt’s Professional & Technical Writing in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences students partnered with Guilford school students. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the program served 30 pre-K and kindergarteners, who all tested at ‘at-risk’ levels in four critical development areas at the beginning of the year and tested at ‘proficient’ levels by year’s end.

Service-learning data analysis also demonstrates strong learning outcomes for Loyola students enrolled in designated service-learning courses in the areas of

understanding marginalized communities, social justice, and importance of and value of service. Ninety-two percent of student respondents reported that service-learning courses increased their understanding of the Jesuit value of “men and women for and with others,” with 63 percent saying it increased “a great deal.”

Strengthening connections between Loyola’s robust service-learning program and other forms of community-engaged learning and scholarship is key.

André E. Johnson, Ph.D., a professor of communications at the University of Memphis and Black Lives Matter activist, presented talks and led discussions in April 2017 that connected students, faculty, and more than 50 community members in considering the role that white churches can—and should—play in racial justice.

In fall of 2016, Loyola’s Committee on Engaged Scholarship defined evaluation criteria and created two new grant programs, the Engaged Scholarship Funds and Campus-Community Partnerships in Knowledge Grants.

Emma Muir, ’17, in collaboration with Professor Inas Hassan and Arabic-speaking students at Esperanza Center in East Baltimore, developed an English-as-a-second-language curriculum for Arabic speakers, introducing grammar and vocabulary with worksheets and exercises to develop conversational and practical English-speaking skills.

Professor Karsonya “Kaye” Whitehead brought leaders from Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, the Teachers Democracy Project, Revolutionary Mothering, and Marc Steiner of Emerging Media, to Loyola’s campus to participate in a campus-wide teach-in held on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2017.



# CONNECTING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY...

“I serve for a more just and equitable community.”



**COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING & SCHOLARSHIP**



**IMMERSIONS**



**COMMUNITY SERVICE**



3 CENTRAL THEMES



**YORK ROAD INITIATIVE**



“Love has no restrictions.”



“I serve because it takes a systemic change.”



SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS  
DECISION-MAKING  
RESEARCH & COLLABORATION  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS  
POST-GRADUATE DISCERNMENT  
ADVOCACY  
DIVERSE LEADERSHIP

**FOR A MORE JUST & EQUITABLE WORLD.**



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