

MASW

Mid-Year Newsletter



SUMMER 2010

From the Executive Director

- To fight for those who are hungry
- To help those who need housing
- To advocate for a tax system that is just
- To work so everyone has quality and affordable healthcare
- To support a fair and just criminal justice system

This is why we belong to MASW. Our hunger for a better state motivates us to do the research, to educate the public, to lead coalitions, to advocate to policymakers, for the downtrodden and the dispossessed, for the disenfranchised and the displaced, for people without homes, for people without jobs, for people without healthcare, for people without hope.

And eleven decades after our founding, we are needed now more than ever.

Missouri needs hearty band of idealists, who are not daunted by the struggle, who are dedicated to the welfare of the people, who continue to be the voice for the voiceless, and who hunger for justice...

Such a state – Missouri – needs such an organization – MASW.

[Join us](#) – [make sure your dues are current](#) – [make a donation](#) – get active in your local chapter and a task force you are most passionate about – [attend our 110th annual conference](#).

Make a difference. Be the difference. Be MASW- Missouri's voice for Social Justice.

Bob Quinn
Executive Director

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Criminal Justice Task Force

Restorative Justice: What is it?

By: Sr. Rose McLarney, Criminal Justice Task Force Chair

Missouri Supreme Court Justice Ray Price's annual report promoted the use of alternatives to incarceration especially for non-violent offenders when this maintains public safety. When George Lombardi, Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, met with the task force this past spring, he spoke of closing a prison to address the budgetary crisis but simultaneously wants to reduce crime. Both of these visions speak to an increase use of Restorative Justice.

Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible. The harm and needs of victims, offenders and community are all addressed. With restorative justice, research shows that the likelihood of future offenses is reduced.

The MASW Criminal Justice Task Force and Missouri Restorative Justice Coalition are working together to promote restorative justice practices in Missouri, as well as, advancing the goals of Justice Price and Director Lombardi.

Below are some of the details of what Restorative Justice really is...

In her handbook, *Restorative Justice: A Vision for Healing and Change*, Susan Sharpe summarized the goals and tasks of restorative justice in this way:

Restorative justice programs aim to:

- put key decisions into the hands of those most affected by crime,
- make justice more healing and, ideally, more transformative, and
- reduce the likelihood of future offenses.

Achieving these goals requires that:

- victims are involved in the process and come out of it satisfied,
- offenders understand how their actions have affected other people and take responsibility for those actions,
- outcomes help to repair the harms done and address the reasons for the offense (specific plans are tailored to the victim's and the offender's needs) and
- victim and offender both gain a sense of "closure" and both are reintegrated into the community.

For more information on getting involved with the MASW Criminal Justice Task Force please contact Christine Woody at christinemasw@hotmail.com or 573-690-7662

Human Rights Task Force

Racial Profiling and Preventative Policing

David Harris coming to Missouri to speak

By: Don Love, Human Rights Task Force Chair

Since the passage of the “anti-immigration” Legislation in Arizona, racial profiling has become an even hotter topic. Arizona’s new law requires officers to check the identification of anyone they have a reasonable suspicion might be an illegal immigrant. In Missouri, this also continues to be an issue of concern, because of this, a coalition of state-wide and local groups including the NAACP, ACLU, Anti-Defamation League, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, the University of Missouri Chancellor’s Office on Diversity, and the Columbia Human Rights Commission are working to address the problems of racial profiling (and profiling based on other factors like disabilities, and sexual orientation) by promoting more effective, research-proven police techniques and policies.

Racial Profiling:

Racial profiling is based on the mistaken notion that a dependable correlation exists between racial characteristics and criminal behavior. Angry young black men, for example, must be watched; people from the Middle East are the ones who will commit acts of terror. But targeting racial characteristics has been shown by research to be ineffective, while profiling specific behaviors that are known to correlate with criminal action works much better. And, this approach protects the rights of all those innocent people who are otherwise harassed.

Racial profiling has to be addressed on three levels:

- Officers need to be taught better techniques.
- Profiling is the product of unconscious bias; officers tend to stop more of the people who fit a racial stereotype, and once stopped they search more of them.
- Finally, profiling is the product of our legacy of deliberate racial discrimination; our society is not yet free of the attitude that minority groups must be kept under the constant pressure of discriminatory law enforcement, harassment and even worse.

To Address Profiling in Missouri:

The Missouri Association for Social Welfare brought David Harris of the University of Pittsburg School of Law to speak in Columbia and Jefferson City on Wednesday, July 21, and in St. Louis on Thursday, July 22. Other events are being planned for Kansas City and Springfield in the near future.

Mr. Harris is an expert on racial profiling and works to increase community and preventative policing across the country. Harris has two recently published books, Profiles in Injustice and Good Cops: the case for preventive policing. Too often, police accept a model of good guys vs. bad guys, which makes everyone in the community a potential enemy who is a fair target for entrapment, intimidation and harassment. Harris proposes “preventive policing,” in which officers see the community as full of good guys who will help them catch bad guys once the police have earned their trust.

NAACP, ACLU, Anti-Defamation League, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, the University of Missouri Chancellor's Office on Diversity, and the Columbia Human Rights Commission are among the groups that have representatives contributing to the coalition.

For more information about future David Harris events in Springfield and Kansas City contact Don Love at dmaclove@centurytel.net or Christine Woody at christinemasw@hotmail.com or 573-690-7662

Health/Mental Health Task Force

What Healthcare Reform means for Missouri

By: Brian Colby, Health/Mental Health Task Force Chair

Health care reform is now the law of the land and contrary to the bluster of its opponents, its repeal is more rhetoric than reality. The process of implementation is well underway with popular insurance reforms such as letting adult children stay on family policies until the age of 26, eliminating pre-existing exclusions for children and providing funding for high risk pools being the first pieces to go into place. For seniors, we will soon see the "closing of the donut hole" in Medicare Part D and Medicare providing payment for preventative services-- all very popular reforms that will benefit millions of Americans regardless of income or political party.

The expansion of coverage via "pooling" in the exchanges, tax credits for small businesses and non-profits and tax credits to middle income families who purchase their own insurance will make affordable health insurance for employers, small business owners, family farmers and the self employed.

For these reasons and others I think the chorus of opposition will begin to fade and the task of implementation will continue. There is a great deal of work to be done. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will be very busy righting rules and procedures. The bill reads "the Secretary shall" in over 1000 places, leaving many decisions yet to be made.

At the state level, the Department of Insurance will carry the bulk of the load early with implementation of new insurance regulations, the temporary high risk pool and the creation of the state based insurance exchange. DSS, DHSS and DMH will be preparing for the expansion of Medicaid slated for 2014.

In the interim, the state agencies will be dealing with significant budget shortfalls that will force painful choices. Federal reform has placed a "maintenance of eligibility" provision upon MO Medicaid and CHIP programs limiting the state's ability to reduce expenditures in these programs. Unfortunately, that leaves social programs other than Medicaid and CHIP more vulnerable to cuts in services.

To get involved in healthcare advocacy contact Bob Quinn, Executive Director of MASW at bquinn@masw.org.

Education Policy Task Force

Education Task Force Plans to Address the State of Education in Missouri

By: Marcia Hayes-Harris, Education Policy Task Force Chair

GET INVOLVED!!!

Concerned about the state of Education in Missouri? Want to take a more proactive stand towards developing a solution?

The MASW Education Task Force is planning a series of forums across state focusing on the "State of Education in Missouri". The forums are designed to provide participants with an update of the current trends and issues followed by an open discussion. The program will allow time to brainstorm some possible solutions. The Task Force is requesting that each local MASW chapter support the effort by hosting one of the forums as part of their educational series this year. Members of the Education Task force will provide the program template and will be available to help facilitate the sessions. Ultimately, the Task Force is hoping to document the entire process and develop their findings into a format that can be shared with policy makers across the state.

If you are interested in hosting a forum or would like more information about the forums, please contact: Marcia Hayes-Harris, Task Force Chair at marcia.hayes-harris@slps.org or 314-531-9028 (work phone)

Hunger Task Force

2010 Missouri Hunger Atlas

By: Sandy Rikoon, Curators Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri-Columbia

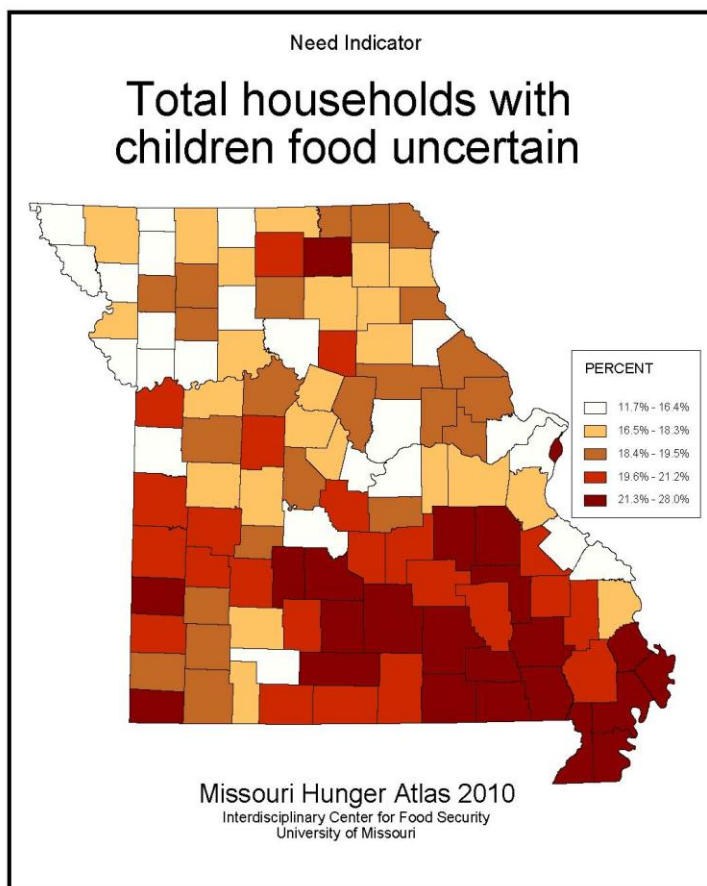
The *Missouri Hunger Atlas 2010* is a collaborative effort of University of Missouri faculty to document, at the county-level, the breadth and extent of hunger need, and the performance of public and private programs in meeting that need. The 2010 edition, which focuses on data from 2008 and 2009, was released in mid-July. An electronic version, complete with tables for every county in Missouri, will be posted at <http://missourifamilies.org/mohungeratlas/>

According to the USDA, 15.8 percent of Missouri's nearly six million residents were food insecure at the end of 2008, which means that 934,034 residents faced uncertainty in acquiring sufficient food for their household. Further, the USDA estimates that 5.8 percent of the population, or roughly 344,000 Missourians, had "very low food security" (formerly "food insecure with hunger"), suggesting they experienced hunger. Trends in food insecurity and hunger are not positive ones for our state, as current averages for both measures have continuously increased over

the first decade of this century. Public spending on hunger programs (e.g., SNAP/Food Stamps) totaled more than 1.4 billion dollars in 2008.

Hunger “need” key findings of *Missouri Hunger Atlas 2010*

- County food uncertainty levels, as well as eligibility rates for Food Stamps, WIC, and free/reduced lunch programs, are generally highest in chronically-poor regions in the southern and northern thirds of the state, and particularly in the Missouri Ozarks and southeastern (“bootheel”) regions. St. Louis City also continues to have high need.
- Rates of food uncertainty and eligibility for every major public program to address food insecurity have increased in virtually all areas of the state.
- Levels of food uncertainty remain higher in households with children than in those without children.
- Suburban counties have lower rates of food uncertainty and program eligibility but these percentages continue to increase. Given the high concentration of population in these counties, the absolute numbers of people in need may be masked by low percentages.
- Rural regions have the highest concentrations of high need counties in the state.



Hunger “performance” key findings of *Missouri Hunger Atlas 2010*

- The success of reaching citizens in need varies greatly across the state and is not consistent across programs.
- Many of the counties with the highest rates of food uncertainty and program eligibility are also doing comparatively well in levels of participation in federal assistance programs.
- Fourteen Missouri counties, the majority of them located in the southwest and southcentral regions, are considered high need and low performing counties.
- Many highly-populated suburban counties are among the lowest performers in terms of public program participation, which suggests citizens in these areas are less likely to be receiving the help they need.

For more information on the Missouri Hunger Atlas contact Christine Woody- christine-masw@hotmail.com or 573-690-7662

Housing Task Force

MASW's Homeless Missourians Information System Project Expands

By: Sandy Wilson, Director of the HMIS Project for MASW

[The Homeless Missourians Information System \(HMIS\) Project](#) is a special project of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. Through the project agencies providing shelter by referral, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing within the [Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care](#) are provided cost-free access to a homeless management information system. In addition to access, enrolled agencies receive ongoing administration, monitoring, technical support, and training from HMIS Project Staff. Support is available on-site, online, and by telephone and occurs on a scheduled basis as well as upon request.

Agencies enrolled with the HMIS Project are provided with the means to easily collect and report client data for a variety of funding sources, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care funds, Emergency Shelter Grant funds, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Funds, and beginning in 2010, Missouri Housing Trust Funds.

Furthermore, the HMIS Project coordinates and collects all of the sheltered homeless data for the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care's bi-annual Point in Time Count, with much of the aggregate data coming directly out of the HMIS. By taking the lead in collecting the sheltered homeless data for the Point-in-Time Count, the HMIS Project is able to identify and approach new agencies not receiving McKinney-Vento funds for enrollment with the Project.

MASW recently secured an additional grant from HUD to be able to expand staff of the Project to be able to meet the technical assistance needs of the [77 agencies](#) that are currently enrolled in the HMIS. There were only two staff members dedicated to this Project when it began in 2002. With the additional grant funding, the Project will now have five full time and one half time staff member.

MASW has expanded the HMIS Team; your current HMIS Project Staff are:

Sandy Wilson – Director of HMIS & Special Projects
Joanne Ivey – HMIS Project Assistant
Lindsay Wallace – HMIS Project Coordinator
Robert Sobule – HMIS HPRP Project Coordinator
Roxanne Parker – HMIS Project Coordinator
Wendy McCoy – HMIS Administrative Assistant

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Education, Economic Justice and Criminal Justice Task Forces



Improving Missouri's Bottom Line:

The Significant Economic Impact of Early Childhood Programs
 By: Center for Family Policy and Research, Columbia, Missouri

The challenge to fund Missouri's state budget, with escalating costs and dwindling revenue, is daunting. Across party lines, the question is: how can Missouri improve the state's economic climate? The surprising answer is investing in high quality early childhood education.

As early childhood (EC) programs have become a community staple, leaders from an array of fields have joined with researchers and policymakers in recognizing that investments in EC education yield significant economic benefits.

Business: According to Nobel prize-winning economist Dr. James Heckman, the most cost-effective route to strengthening the workforce is to invest in early education, "A large body of empirical work at the interface of neuroscience and social science has established that fundamental cognitive and non-cognitive skills are produced in the early years of childhood, *long before children start kindergarten....* Later remediation [repeating grades in school, job training, GED] of early deficits is costly, and often prohibitively so."¹

Economics: Research from 50 states indicates the child care sector has a powerful economic multiplier effect since EC programs buy supplies/materials within their communities, employ a sizable workforce, and enable parents to pursue stable employment. This local linkage is as "equally strong or greater than retail and tourism and other social infrastructures such as hospitals, job training, elementary and secondary schools and universities."² Further, this multiplier effect supports the growth of an ever-increasing infrastructure that increases tax revenue.

Education: Investments in EC education provide long-term dividends. This is especially true for children who are *most* at-risk for poor outcomes including children who reside in low-income families or rural communities. The research is compelling:

- Children who attended high quality EC programs experienced a significantly more positive developmental trajectory through their school-age years and into adulthood when compared to children who did not attend high quality EC programs.³
- Cost-benefit analyses show a return of \$3.78-\$12.90 return per \$1 invested.^{4,5}

**Missouri's
\$6 Billion**
Child Care Sector

A 2004 economic impact study of Missouri's regulated child care identified that this industry annually:

- Employs 34,000 people
- Produces \$635 million in gross annual receipts
- Pays over \$400 million in wages
- Purchases over \$83 million in consumables and utilities
- Leverages \$255 million in federal funds

The study concludes that the total economic impact is over \$6 billion or 3% of all state output.⁸

A Summary of the Benefits of High Quality Early Childhood Programs	
Child Outcomes	Adult Outcomes
<p><i>Higher rate of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completing high school 2. Above average test scores 3. Positive attitudes toward school among children and parents <p><i>Lower rate of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remedial education 2. Special education 	<p><i>Higher rate of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stable employment 2. Home & car ownership 3. Family involvement 4. Education attainment <p><i>Lower rate of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social service use 2. Criminal involvement 3. Substance abuse

Law Enforcement: Cost-benefit studies, using longitudinal data, indicate that children who attend high quality EC programs are *less likely* to later become involved in juvenile and/or adult criminal activity when compared to their peers who did not attend such programs. Two significant factors contribute to this lower rate of criminal activity. First, children who attend EC programs have an increased rate of high school graduation when compared to their peers who did not attend. Second, due to the higher graduation rate, this group also has a higher rate of stable employment and increased earnings. The lower rate of criminal activity results in reduced state expenditures related to law enforcement services. The net cost of crime, in 2004 dollars, is estimated to be over \$1.3 trillion per year or a per capita cost of \$4,818.⁶

Military: A former Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently stated, “Our men and women in uniform are the best in the world. But the sophistication of our military is increasing every year so we will soon need even better-qualified recruits. Unfortunately, the number of young Americans who have high-school degrees, are in good physical shape, and are without criminal records is declining. To keep our country strong and safe, we need to ensure all young Americans get the right start in life – we need more investments in high quality early education.”⁷ (Henry “Hugh” Shelton, General, US Army, retired)

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3. Galinsky, E. (2006, February). *The economic benefits of high-quality early childhood programs: What makes the difference?* The Committee for Economic Development.
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5. Lynch, R. G. (2004). *Exceptional returns: Economic, fiscal, and social benefits of investments in early childhood development*. Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute.
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The Center for Family Policy & Research is housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri.
Visit us on the web at <http://CFPR.missouri.edu>

Economic Justice Task Force

Economic Headlines Rock Our World But Can't Move Public Concern

By: Barbara Ross, Economic Justice Task Force Chair

Here are the latest headlines that should move Missourians to fear and trembling, but they seem to barely register on the scale of public concern - “Governor Nixon Announces Over \$300 million in Further FY2011 Budget Cuts,” and “Governor Calls for a Special Session that Would Pit Perks for the Ford Motor Company Against State Employee Pension Benefits.” While \$150 million may be peanuts to the Ford Motor Company it is the whole enchilada to state employees who, for years, worked for the lowest wages in the nation so they could be assured of a defined monthly benefit upon their retirement.

Why the concern over another \$300-plus in cuts to the Missouri state budget for FY2010, well let's take a look at recent history - we don't have look back too far. Between 1975 and 2001 Missouri had no negative revenue growth years. In the last decade, we have had four years of declining revenue, and at this

point in FY 2010 Missouri is 7.9 percent below last year at this point. However, this is on top of nearly a billion dollars in mid-year (2010) budget restrictions.

In the current fiscal year (2010) Missouri received \$800 million in federal stabilization funds that have softened the blow of reduced state revenues, but by 2012 there may be no federal dollars to count on – as some people say, “Missouri just falls off the cliff.” No one knows exactly what this means, but it does not mean anything good for poor and low-income children and adults, or the disabled and elderly. According to the Missouri Budget Project, even if Missouri were to have four-percent revenue growth in 2011-12, we would still have a \$1 billion revenue shortfall to meet current state funding needs.

So, what are the causes of Missouri’s budget crisis? Some things are national perhaps even global in scope, but many things have their locus in Missouri’s long-standing political finagling and bamboozling. However, all political, economic, and social systems are a human dynamic; nothing is preordained or is just the natural order of things. The good news is that because human politics have made these messes, they also can be corrected by proper and just political action that makes equity, the common good and general welfare the first order of business not just gratuitous words on the front of the state Capitol.

Many of Missouri’s economic woes are the result of perhaps 30-years of Missouri legislatures that year after year have failed to meaningfully address structural revenue issues and worse yet, amazingly, have repeatedly proposed and often passed legislation that makes the economic outlook worse. At the root of many of today’s economic woes lies the 1980 Hancock Amendment, which places an artificial and ill-calculated cap on the amount of revenue government can receive. This Constitutional Amendment is directly connected to the profusion of tax credits and permanent tax cuts that characterize the last 30 years of Missouri government, and that are at the heart of the drain on Missouri revenues.

Also, there is the unimaginably outdated income tax structure, as well as some of the most inequitable policy and administrative practices to be found in the entire 50 states.

Beginning in the 1990’s and continuing throughout the 2000’s, due to bumping up against the Hancock revenue lid, the accumulative impact of yearly legislative enactments of state tax cuts, and an ever-escalating number of tax credits, Missouri’s revenue has been severely choked back. If you consider only the years 2008 to 2012, you see permanent tax cuts amounting to \$75.5 million in 2008, escalating to a whopping \$325.9 million in 2012 – these are one year totals. Tax credits have grown 85% since fiscal year 2000. Missouri is looking at losing state revenues to the tune of \$2.4 billion through tax credits alone. Beginning in 2008, when total tax revenues peaked at \$8 billion, we have had a fast and steep slide downward to \$6.7 billion in the current fiscal year. These are lost dollars that are essential to running a state government that can secure the welfare and public good of all its citizens, especially those least well connected and/or unable to help themselves, and at a time when government programs are most needed.

Then there is Missouri’s grossly outdated, inadequate and inequitable individual income tax structure, which has not had its tax brackets meaningfully restructured since 1931, and in which the highest tax bracket of 6% begins at just \$9000 of adjusted gross income. This combined with scores of corporate tax loopholes, special deductions, exemptions, and tax rates that typically go to the wealthiest individuals and corporations have effectively narrowed the Missouri revenue stream to a very small steam vent. A single case in point that adds more coals to this burn-down of revenues is the timely filing discount, nothing more than a big business give-away, which costs the State \$40 million in 2009 alone – is it really fair for business to have a discount on their taxes just for PAYING ON TIME; although, there remains a multitude of other tax code genuflections to big business and the wealthy too lengthy to mention here.

There are three things need to be in place for Missouri to have a modern, fair tax structure, and an adequate revenue stream that can meet the real needs of all Missourians.

The first and perhaps the most obvious correction likely would be to modernize the Missouri individual income tax code. This work has been done, and well, by Rep. Jeanette Oxford in her legislation-HB2034 (2010). The second thing that needs to happen is to eliminate the preferential tax treatments given to corporations and the wealthy through loopholes, many (if not most) of the tax credits, exemptions, deductions and special rates currently in place. And perhaps most importantly, the third leg of this stool is public concern, public awareness, and public action. The Economic Justice Task Force of MASW is one place this kind of concern, awareness and action is undertaken; members of the task force hope you will join us in the struggle for economic justice.

** This is an edited version of a longer piece written by Barbara Ross. if you would like the entire article to contact Barbara at brross@diojeffcity.org

For more information about the MASW Economic Justice Task Force contact 573-634-2901 or visit www.masw.org

110th Annual Conference

110th Annual MASW Statewide Conference- "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Social Justice: A Call to Action"

For 110 years, MASW has been **the voice for social justice** in Missouri.

It has always been a priority of MASW to bring together social workers and other direct service providers, non-profit leaders, college students and their professors, government officials, and concerned citizens from across the state in the hopes of creating a more educated membership and in turn creating a membership prepared for, and dedicated to, taking action for social justice.

Please join MASW for our 110th Annual Conference

WHEN: Thursday, November 4, 2010 and Friday, November 5, 2010

WHERE: Resort at Port Arrowhead, Lake Ozark, Missouri

Keynote Speakers:

Ray Hartmann: Founder of the Riverfront Times in St. Louis, MO

Leonard Zeskind: Author of Blood and Politics

Chief Justice Ray Price: Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice

Chief Dan Isom, Chief of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

Judy Baker, Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Registration information will be mailed to each of our members in August.

Or for more information visit: www.masw.org

See you there!

Our Partners and Sponsors

MASW is proud to be a partner with several generous organizations that provide financial support for our mission: to provide the leadership, research, education and advocacy to improve public policies and programs impacting the health and welfare of all people in Missouri.



[Missouri Foundation
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MASW's mission is also funded in part by membership dues, and by investment earnings from the Endowment Fund that was established by generous MASW members and supporters as part of our Centennial Celebration (2000 – 2002).

For more information...

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