

Handout #9
On Behalf of our Children
Wisconsin Council of Churches

STEPS IN SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action is taking steps to change things that are wrong in our society. It is the act of introducing new ideas and procedures for doing things better. Social action involves finding a problem, providing a solution, and assessing its impact.

Social action is a means of empowerment, using proven concepts. **It's time we put our faith and values to work**, James say to us: A faith without works is worthless. (James 2:17)

Step 1

Organize

Ecclesiastes 4:9 tells us that two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. No man is an island. Everybody at one time or another will need someone to speak for them. The more speakers the louder the voice, the louder the voice the greater the impact on the powers to be, numbers are important. Therefore, it is important to organize people to serve as advocates.

Step 2

Identify the issue that you are going to address, define its cause.

This will take some research, possibly engaging surveys.

You can also use existing research records.

Example: What has been the correlation between the school dropout rate and the rate of unemployment, or the rate of incarceration?

Step 3

Take action.

Select and plan an action activity to address the issue.

There must be a desired outcome from the action implemented.

That means setting a goal.

Make sure the goal is achievable.

Can the goal be sustained?

Will the goal compel groups, agencies, and organizations to change community for the well-being of all?

Activities are organized that lead to and support the desired outcome.

It will surely involve collaboration between your group and other community driven elements (NAACP, Urban League, Voter Registration Advocates, etc.)

It may involve conducting community meetings, or coordinating awareness raising events.

Involving the media is another powerful strategy.

Step 4

Measure the success of the action.

In some arenas this is called a scorecard. It is basically a watchdog effort. Some community actions will hinge on policy development. Therefore the school boards, department of correction boards, bank

boards of directors, must be kept under pressure to insure that politicians and others, who have the power to change the laws, will make policy that has positive outcomes for our people. To maintain the desired outcome, polls and surveys throughout the community will be needed in order to insure compliance with the actions that have been taken.

Note:

The above mentioned steps are designed to provide solutions to the disparities within our community, there are some immediate actions that we can take waiting to implement the action steps.

We have primary and general elections coming up, and we can begin to address some of these issues by getting our people involved in the election process; becoming voter registrars, holding get out the vote rallies, attend city council meetings, school board meetings, economic development and business management seminars, adopting a school and becoming mentors, serving on city and county commissions. Become an advocate for the least of these. **Isaiah put it this way; you will be a rebuilder of walls, and a restorer of homes.** (Isaiah 58:12)