

Social Justice Ideas submitted to the NOVA Community

*DREAMER PARENTS

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NOVA members on my planning team: Kate Doherty, Nancy Veldhuis.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: “Padres en Accion” leadership training is a four-session course designed to address the needs expressed by DREAMer parents for personal development, leadership capacity building, stress management, and a greater understanding of their rights as undocumented immigrants in the United States, and of managing college costs for their children’s education. Participants in this course will be learning on two levels: for developing their own knowledge, strategies and capabilities, and so that they can contribute to building these capabilities in their community.

Participants in the course will develop problem-solving and networking skills, become familiar with community resources, and explore a variety of wellness strategies including meditation and exercise for stress reduction. The course will provide them with information and assistance on college financial planning. They will gain an understanding of their rights in this country, and develop contingency plans for handling police or ICE stops, detention or deportation, and will receive assistance with creating a power of attorney. Participants will come away from the course with a personal plan of action to support their families and community. As they learn principles of values-based leadership, participants will identify a development goal, and support each other’s development through skills practice and in learning partnerships.

PURPOSE AND NEED: In these uncertain times, undocumented immigrants are afraid and feel powerless about their future. NOVA members held three listening sessions with DREAMer moms and students designed to identify specific ideas on how to respond to their concerns related to legal, financial and educational issues. Immigrant parents are resilient and committed to support their children pursue higher education; but they need help. This leadership training course will assist them to develop their potential by acquiring additional knowledge and skills to reach their goals and to support their families and community. This project is a collaboration with the Dream Project. Dream Project parent leaders met on two occasions to identify topics for the training.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA’S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: This idea touches on three of NOVA’s priorities, Immigrants and Refugees, The Poor and Racism by helping low income immigrants develop knowledge, skills and proactive strategies for dealing with the challenges facing their families and community in an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant environment.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount needed: \$2,000 needed to offer four 3-hour sessions to 20 parent leaders. Funding will be used for materials, food and presenters.

How soon? Training is scheduled to start late September.

One-time or ongoing funding necessary? One time funding for this pilot training program. Ongoing funding may be requested at a later time.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? NOVA members will be involved as volunteers. Coordinators: Emma Violand-Sanchez, Kate Doherty, Jeanne Clarkson, and Clyde Christofferson. Other contributors will include Robert Rhemes (immigration attorney). Lisa Ling (wellbeing coach), and, from the DREAM Project: Lizette Uria. Roxana Montano and Dream Project mothers.

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS WOULD NOVA PARTNER WITH, IF ANY? NOVA will partner with the Dream Project in collaboration with Arlington Public Schools, VACOLAO, and Just Neighbors.

***Elder Climate Action**

+ Immigrants and refugees + The poor +
+ Threats to peace + Racism + The environment +
(Revised Proposal – 9.23.2017)

David Mog davidmmog@gmail.com 703-522-1812

NOVA members on my planning team: Gloria Mog

Brief description of our idea: Elders Climate Action (ECA), a branch of the Conscious Elders Network (CEN), is a young, emergent organization staffed by volunteers. ECA successfully organized two national gatherings (Grandparents Climate Action Days in September, 2015 and April, 2017) that brought elders together for education and advocacy for action on climate change with members of congress. Gloria and I were half of the four person local organizing team for the April, 2017 event that also included a contingent of elders who participated in the People’s Climate March on Saturday, April 29th. We plan to work with ECA to help organize and execute a comparable event in 2018. From experience, we know that gatherings of this kind are critical opportunities to help grow a new movement. We also know that having a secured base of financial support provides the energy volunteer event organizers need to think big and there-by pull off an event that inspires participants to return home, spread the word, continue the work, and grow the movement. Our request is simply that NOVA agrees to provide a significant amount of seed money in support of the next gathering in Washington, DC under the auspices of Elders Climate Action.

Purpose and need: The fastest growing segment of America’s population is 65 and older. With a lifetime of experience, this group has much to offer America and the world. Unfortunately, our youth oriented culture relegates all but the most activist among us to the sidelines. America and an emerging global society needs the gifts of insight and wisdom that only elders can provide; and elders need an on-going sense of purpose to remain vital and spiritually alive. Since its origins in the Stone Age, no threat to a stable future for civilization has been as complicated and challenging as climate change. Consequently, it should be no surprise that Elders Climate Action was the first project to emerge from CEN’s inaugural conclave in the spring of 2015.

How our idea advances one of NOVA’s priority areas of concern: Broadly considered, the environment has long been a concern among NOVA’s membership. Witness the “Prius Parking Lot” associated with NOVA gatherings. While supporting near term efforts to clean up our rivers and reduce air pollution in our small corner of the planet are important, these concerns pale in comparison to the long-term, global challenge of climate change. And global warming is so much more than an “inconvenient truth.” To paraphrase Ralph Nader, who spoke at our April ECA gathering, “global warming is the mother of all peace and social justice issues.” Why? Because analysts agree that the least advantaged members of the human family will suffer the most as a result of the disruptions to existing ecosystems that will be caused by pending climate change. News coverage of hurricanes Harvey and Irma reveal as much for residents of vulnerable coastal areas. By providing significant funding to ECA , NOVA has a unique opportunity to amplify the voices of thousands of NOVA’s elder peers across America who share our desire to see our country take strong action to address climate change.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount needed: \$2,500 - \$5,000 (Note that ECA’s annual budget is \$35,000 and the April 2017 gathering had a budget of \$10,000. Note also that ECA leadership has expressed the hope that sufficient funds will be available in 2018 to rent the equipment necessary to allow members from around the country to, for the first time, “attend” the conference remotely. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000 will be needed to achieve this goal. We imagine that a generous donation from NOVA will inspire other ECA members to “pass the hat” within their own communities.)

How soon? Funds would be needed by a date to be determined in 2018 to cover up-front costs associated with a conference including but not limited to program printing, deposits to reserve conference facilities, audio-visual equipment rentals, incidental advertising costs, and so on.

One-time or ongoing funding necessary? This would be a one-time donation to help strengthen a movement that is intended to be a self-sustaining.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? NOVA members could become active with and help grow a Northern Virginia Chapter of Elders Climate Action; Gloria and David Mog are members of the chapter's steering committee. They might also wish to join Gloria and David on the planning team for Grandparents Climate Action Days 2018.

What organizations would NOVA partner with, if any? NOVA could partner with the UUCA whose social justice arm is vitally interested in climate action and whose members participated in a meeting of exploration held at our home on Friday, June 9th. ECA itself partners with a large number of environmental organizations including the Sierra Club, Mom's Clean Air Force, Citizen's Climate Lobby and many others.

***FAMILY EMERGENCY FUND**

Anne Passin Dianne Carroll, diacarroll@comcast.net, apassin@gmail.com

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: This proposal is a request to bolster funding for Nova's **Family Emergency Fund**. The fund was established to assist families in Arlington Public Schools in emergency situations when no other resources are available. Needs addressed have included: transportation vouchers, Giant gift cards, dental and medical care, utility bills, laundry costs, and diapers for severely handicapped children. School social workers screen requests for assistance, submitting a form to Nova that documents the need, agencies that have been accessed for help, and the amount requested. Nova writes checks to address the need directly. For example, we purchase grocery cards, Target cards, and cab vouchers through the Nova account and give those to social workers to distribute to families

PURPOSE AND NEED: This fund meets a vital need, helping families maintain stability and independence in time of crisis. While families may be able to pay their rent, they are without a financial safety net to cover some necessary everyday expenses. They are particularly vulnerable to unexpected setbacks such as job loss, illness, transportation difficulties, and the death of a family member.

Nova as a community is uniquely able to respond quickly to emergency requests for assistance. This program makes an immediate and significant difference in the lives of Arlington families, helping them maintain some hard-won ground rather than falling off a cliff into poverty and homelessness.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The fund began in 2010 with donations from three Nova members including Ken Chaison, who became the primary donor. At the time of his death, the fund was renamed the Ken Chaison Family Emergency Fund, inviting donations from the community and others in Ken's name. Recently the fund has been nearly depleted.

Fund disbursements in recent years:

2015--\$3,593

2016--\$7,244

2017 to date--\$2,536

To ensure availability of funds for families in need, we are requesting a

one-time contribution of \$5,000. We would also continue to invite donations around Ken's birthday and the anniversary of his death.

***JUST PEACE CONFERENCE**

John Reeder jreeder123@msn.com 703-536-7834

NOVA members on my planning team John Reeder, Archer Heinzen, and other interested members of the Peace Action Committee

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: One-day Ecumenical conference on advocacy for a Just Peace in the Middle East with other faith communities in Northern Virginia in October 2017. The outcome of the conference is to get joint advocacy with Congress for shifting U.S. military funds to funds for peace building in Syria, Iraq, and related countries.

PURPOSE AND NEED: This workshop extends our peace efforts and advocacy in the Middle East with the goal of a peaceful end to the Syrian and other wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and an end to U.S. military intervention and its replacement by peace building as articulated by Pope Francis

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA'S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: this is aimed at building partnerships with other Northern Virginia faith communities including Pax Christi Local chapter, and Friends Committee to advocate in Congress for reducing U.S. military involvement in the wars in the Middle East. This advances the agenda of the Peace Action Committee.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount needed: \$500

How soon? September 2017

One-time or ongoing funding necessary? One time funding.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? We would set up the one day conference, get the speakers, publicize, and network in advance with other faith communities. We would hold the conference at a church hall or possibly the GMU Graduate Center in Arlington.

What organizations would NOVA partner with, if any? All interested North Virginia Catholic and faith communities would be invited, Unitarians, Quakers, Pax Christi Local chapter, GMU graduate school for conflict analysis and resolution, Friends Committee National Legislation.

***LEGAL AID**

Marie Keefe/Ted Miller/Bob O'Toole/Kathy Scheimer/Meg Tuccillo mlkeefe1008@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Dear NOVA Community,

As you know the Trump Administration has intensified its efforts to deport undocumented immigrants. Many of those affected are in our community and in some cases are our friends. We are aware that these individuals have legal options at their disposal but often they do not have the ability to obtain legal representation. We believe now is the time for NOVA to provide assistance in a small way by funding legal help at the critical stage of the deportation process.

In its May 17, 2017 issue, The Atlantic reports : ...”U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has arrested more than 41,300 undocumented immigrants in the 100 days since President Trump signed a pair of executive orders tightening border security and cracking down on sanctuary cities, ICE reported Wednesday. This represents a 38 percent increase from the same time period in 2016, when ICE arrested slightly more than 30,000 undocumented immigrants”.

Further “In February, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly released [two memos](#) describing how Trump’s executive orders would be enforced in the U.S. According to Wednesday’s ICE report, [Kelly](#) “*has made*

it clear that ICE will no longer exempt any class of individuals from removal proceedings if they are found to be in the country illegally.”

The Atlantic continues “Despite these new security measures,” an ICE official “told reporters that deportations have actually declined by 12 percent under the Trump administration. This is because more undocumented immigrants are being arrested in the interior of the country rather than along the border. As a result, they often face lengthy hearings in the nation’s immigration court system.”

The attached proposal represents our thoughts on how we can make a difference. We believe this proposal conforms to NOVA’s history of filling a need. At the same time it is a bold effort to aggressively help the most in need.

Please review our proposal carefully, ask important questions and hopefully support us.

Marie Keefe Ted Miller Bob O’Toole Kathy Scheimer Meg Tuccillo

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: Establish a NOVA administered legal fund for the purpose of funding legal assistance to selected individuals who are threatened with deportation. The increased enforcement of new immigration policies and procedures is threatening undocumented individuals with deportation, currently called Removal Proceedings. These individuals are often parents of Dreamers or in some cases Dreamers themselves. These individuals do not have the financial ability to obtain the legal assistance necessary to navigate the immigration process.

PURPOSE AND NEED: It is in NOVA’s pedigree to respond to current challenges to the least fortunate in our community. At this time, the enhanced enforcement of immigration laws has caused fear among immigrants. NOVA’s involvement in this crucial and timely issue will result in assistance at a critical time. In Virginia, 7 in 10 detained immigrants attend court proceedings without a lawyer. Only about 10% of immigrants without representation win their cases. To date, our research finds no other fund like this in our area. We recognize our Fund cannot assist all in need but we believe it is a necessary plug in the dyke.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA’S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: NOVA has determined that immigration is a priority issue to be addressed by the Community. This proposal is a major initiative in response to that priority. Not only does it send a message that NOVA is concerned about this issue, it provides on- the- ground assistance to those in need.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount Needed: We propose a revolving fund of \$25,000. No more than that amount would be used each year, with provisions made to replenish the Fund as needed.

How soon? The need is immediate but we understand the need to obtain approval, establish guidelines and identify partners.

One-time or ongoing funding necessary? Ongoing funding to replenish fund.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? We envision a small committee of members to review applications for assistance and vet law firms. The NOVA treasurer would provide oversight over the expenditure of funds. Volunteers could provide accompaniment in the form of prayer, emotional support and witness during this time.

What organization would NOVA partner with, if any? We will solicit proposals from law firms to provide legal assistance at crucial times in the process. We will also reach out to others, such as churches, for potential partners.

Thus far we have been in touch with Our Lady Queen of Peace, Restoration Church that has a pro bono legal service for immigrants. Arlington School Social Workers and Legal Aid for Justice have provided us a list of recommended attorneys

MORE INFO:

NOVA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND- working plan

PURPOSE:

The NLDF was created to provide legal assistance to individuals who are facing deportation action and are in need of legal assistance but are unable to pay. Eligibility for assistance is determined by the guidelines written by the trustees of the fund. Legal assistance is provided at the most crucial stage of a deportation process. It is envisioned the NLDF will have an arrangements with one or several law firms to assist the referred individuals.

ORGANIZATION:

~The NLDF is governed by the Trustees which is a Committee of 3 NOVA members and the NOVA chairs. The members are appointed by the chairs. The Committee will have designated staggered terms. Members should serve not more than 2 consecutive terms. Members of the Committee will designate one member as a chair for the purpose of calling meetings, organizing meetings and reporting to the community.

~The NLDF Committee will establish guidelines for the selection of recipients of assistance. It is envisioned that recipients will be referred by members of the community as the result of Dreamer contacts, school referrals and/or referrals from other faith based organizations.

~The Committee is encouraged to use the funds available in the most judicious way possible to maximize benefits.

~The Committee is charged with locating and approving a list of attorneys who can and will provide assistance to referrals as they approach the most serious stages of the deportation process. Setting fees should be part of the arrangement with the attorneys.

~The Committee will report to NOVA quarterly as to its activities and results. Financial matters will be reported to the chairs.

~It is envisioned that clients will be: low income, facing deportation, a resident of No. Virginia. Other criteria can be established by the Committee.

***RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

Anne Passin Dianne Carroll, diacarroll@comcast.net, apassin@gmail.com

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: This proposal is a request to bolster funding for Nova's **Homeless Prevention/Rental Assistance** program. The fund was established to provide rental relief and thus prevent eviction on a one-time emergency basis for families in the Arlington Public Schools.

School social workers screen requests for assistance, submitting a form to Nova that documents the need, agencies that have been accessed for help, and the amount requested. Nova makes a determination and rental checks are written to the rental company or landlord.

PURPOSE AND NEED: This fund meets a vital need, helping families maintain stability and independence in time of crisis. While families may be managing day-to-day, they are without a financial safety net. They are, therefore, particularly vulnerable to unexpected setbacks such as job loss, transportation difficulties, illness, and the death of a family member.

When contacted by social workers, other churches/agencies are unable to help because they lack the funds, cannot provide funds on a timely basis, or they require an eviction notice. Nova as a community is uniquely able to respond quickly to emergency requests for assistance. This program makes an immediate and significant difference in the lives of Arlington families, helping them maintain some hard-won ground rather than falling off a cliff into poverty and homelessness.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Currently the Homeless Prevention/Rental Assistance Fund receives \$500 monthly from the general collection. This amount has been supplemented by two special collections, scheduled around other Nova priorities and activities. Yet, the timing and amount of assistance needed is irregular and unpredictable. As a result, there have been times when funds have not been sufficient and personal checks were written to cover the requests. Based on past experience, approximately \$25,000 is needed annually. To ensure availability of funds for these families and minimize the burden on individual Nova members, **we are requesting a one-time contribution of \$5,000 along with a \$500 increase in the monthly allocation to \$1,000.** While these amounts could reduce dependence on special collections, those collections will continue as needed.

***STIPEND SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Linda & Jack Christie jacklinc@verizon.net 703-491-8670

NOVA members on our planning team (if there are others): Christies, Eric Carroll, Kathy Scheimer, Christina Smith-Gajadhar and Meg Tuccillo

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: Expand the current Marie Pinho Scholarship Program to two more Dreamers. We have one well underway with Daniel Sanchez and two more we are hoping to fund for their final two years of college. This will use up most of the original money we were given for this Scholarship.

PURPOSE AND NEED: To support TWO more Dreamers with \$300 per school month (nine months of the year) for four years = a total of \$21,600.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA'S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: We judge The Dreamers fall under the helping Immigrants category discerned this past year as one of five areas on which NOVA hopes to focus.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount needed: Totally, \$21,600 that would begin to be distributed in September 2018

How soon? September 2018 since we already have funding for other Dreamers on-going

One-time or ongoing funding necessary? Ideally this would be on going, but if it ends after five total Dreamers have been assisted with attending/graduating from college, that would be great. We started with Daniel Sanchez in September 2016. Daniel is on target to graduate from Marymount University in 2020. Two rising juniors at the same school are on target to graduate in 2020. If we could fund two additional Dreamers beginning their freshmen years of college in September 2018, they would be on target to graduate in May 2022.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? NOVA members on this team distribute monthly checks (right now, Kathy Scheimer is getting \$300 checks monthly Sept. thru May to Daniel Sanchez). He has been good about getting required documentation – mainly transcripts of his grades – back to the committee.

What organizations would NOVA partner with, if any? None foreseen

***NETWORK – MONTHLY REQUEST**

Pat Sodo pmsheart@yahoo.com 703.798.3219

NOVA members on my planning team (if there are others): None

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA:: I propose that we provide financial support to NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, a well-established organization already working on behalf of our areas of concern.

PURPOSE AND NEED: NOVA is poised to connect with activities and activists as partners in addressing the areas of concern we've identified. I think that NETWORK stands as an ideal choice. Over the past 45 years, NETWORK has grown in visibility and effectiveness on The Hill and in the field. NETWORK lobbyists are persistent and agenda-driven in meeting with elected federal officials and their staffs on a daily, weekly, and even recess basis. Concurrently, grassroots supporters are being mobilized to contact their congressional delegation by phone and mail, as well as through meetings, letters to the editor, etc. Issue-driven NETWORK communications go out on a regular basis, providing a wealth of current and convincing information.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA'S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: Not only does supportive partnership with NETWORK address our areas of concern – particularly those that impact immigrants, the poor, and racism – but it opens a stream of information about issues, events, and campaigns. The latter addresses what I see as another of NOVA's concerns: helping us be most effective where we are in our lives now by collaborating.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

I would like to see NOVA give at least \$100 to NETWORK each month. Of course, if the community decides that NETWORK is one of the best matches for our concerns and our work, more could be given.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers: I periodically share announcements from NETWORK with NOVA. While continuing to do that, I would take seriously the responsibility to establish a regular path of communication and announcements. NETWORK would be only too happy to have us as dedicated advocates and lobbyists!

NETWORK is establishing grassroots organizations (church-based and community-based) around the country. Why couldn't NOVA be one of those organizations?!

<https://networklobby.org/>

ADVOCACY PROPOSALS

***SANCTUARY CONGREGATION**

Markie Harwood markieharwood@gmail.com 571-455-2312

NOVA members on my planning team (if there are others): Carmela, Kathy, Judy

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: I propose that NOVA officially join the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, a network of 60-plus faith communities working to provide support and solidarity to neighbors, friends and family who fear being detained, deported or profiled. While NOVA cannot provide physical sanctuary, we can volunteer through the network for accompaniment to ICE check-ins, rapid response, vigils, campaigning to support local and state candidates, and other advocacy.

PURPOSE AND NEED: Immigrants face increasing adversity under the current administration. In the words of Rabbi Jonathan Roos in the April 14 Washington Post: "After years of stalled negotiations in Congress on comprehensive immigration reform, we now face a political and cultural moment marred by xenophobia and anti-immigrant violence. The government's stated goals of building walls and increasing enforcement have already broken up families and forcibly removed productive, long-standing members of our communities. As a community of faith, our course of action must transcend politics. When people's lives are at stake and it is within our power to intercede, we are compelled to act." One such family is that of Lilian Cruz Mendez, a mother of two

who lives in Falls Church who was detained May 18 at a regular check-in at ICE's Fairfax office and put on deportation orders. Through the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, NOVA members have been active in fighting her deportation.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA'S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: Addressing the needs of immigrants in one of NOVA's priority areas of concern. However, some members have questioned whether NOVA would be acting illegally by participating in the sanctuary movement. We would not be acting illegally. As a member of Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston put it: Harboring is illegal. But welcoming, without hiding, is not. Activities such as rapid response and accompaniment are not illegal, as long as you are not interfering with police.

As Rabbi Roos put it in his Post article: "Standing with the immigrants among us, regardless of legal status, is intrinsic to who we are." https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/im-a-rabbi-heres-why-my-congregation-offers-sanctuary-to-undocumented-immigrants/2017/04/14/6109eb28-1ad8-11e7-9887-1a5314b56a08_story.html?utm_term=.7c1aeb01fbd0

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

None

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers? I/we would attend DMV and Northern Virginia meetings and keep up with network emails; inform the community of possible actions; and recruit volunteers for specific actions such as accompaniment and rapid response.

What organizations would NOVA partner with, if any? NOVA would be among 60-plus faith communities in the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network. These include Joe Nangle's Assisi House and four other Catholic communities in D.C. and Maryland.

***SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY NORTHERN VA**

Don Sodo donsodo@gmail.com

703.587.5962

NOVA members on my planning team (if there are others): None

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY IDEA: Increase NOVA's impact on social justice issues in Northern Virginia. The goal of the project is to organize a collaboration among local area IECs, Diocesan officials, Catholic social justice organizations and Catholic parishes and individuals to jointly advocate for economic, racial, and environmental justice in our community. Use established Catholic social justice teaching and policy statements and positions as a basis for action to influence decision-makers.

PURPOSE AND NEED: More can always be done when it comes to advocating for social justice. However, successful advocacy is achieved through collaboration of as many interested parties as possible. The question is whether NOVA feels it can or should play a role in promoting a stronger, focused and coordinated local Catholic response to the social justice needs of our community.

HOW MY IDEA ADVANCES ONE OF NOVA'S PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN: The proposal acknowledges the role NOVA members currently play in advancing social justice issues through work with various, mostly local, organizations. This idea could enhance the impact of our work by addressing an entire range of social justice issues locally. The project would promote a collaborative approach among participating

organizations to grow public awareness of social injustice and influence public policy through the advocacy of this coalition of local Catholic institutions and believers.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Amount needed: Financial needs uncertain. Time, energy and commitment are the greatest resource need.

How soon: Strategic plan would drive timeline for activity and resource requirements.

ACTION PLAN

How would NOVA members be involved as administrators or volunteers: NOVA Committee to study practical feasibility of the project with respect to NOVA leadership for this project or, alternatively, involvement/support for existing advocacy efforts in the community.

What organizations would NOVA partner with, if any? Area IECs, parishes, lay leaders in the Diocese, and, possibly, Diocesan officials.