



*The summer sped by us, and fall seems ready to do the same. It's definitely time to update our friends and allies. We're encouraged by the progress we've been making, and pleased to welcome some new faces to Main Street Project.*

## Danielle Mkali joins media justice program team

Welcome to [Danielle Mkali](#) who joins Main Street Project as media justice organizer and lead trainer. Danielle has more than eight years of experience training and developing young organizers, most recently at the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at Augsburg College. Prior to that, she served as co-lead facilitator and organizer with HOPE Community in its SPEAC program.



Danielle Mkali

Contact Danielle at [danielle@mainstreetproject.org](mailto:danielle@mainstreetproject.org).

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## Minnesota stands up for Net Neutrality

It was standing room only at Minneapolis' South High School when [FCC Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and Michael Copps](#) joined Sen. Al Franken and Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie for a public hearing on the future of the Internet. Main Street Project, [Free Press](#) and the [Center for Media Justice](#) co-hosted the August 19 gathering of more than 760; with another 1,100 people watching via [The Uptake's livestream](#). Many of our Minnesota Digital Justice Coalition partners were among those who spoke passionately about the imperative of preserving Net Neutrality.



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## Hillside Farmers Co-op awarded USDA grant

Hillside Farmers Co-op, formed by Northfield and Cannon Falls agripreneurs working with the [Rural Enterprise Center](#), was just named the first-ever Minnesota recipient of a USDA Small, Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grant. The grant will fund feasibility studies for producing



and processing free-range poultry, business planning, training and legal assistance.

Maria Sosa

Said co-op board chair Maria Sosa, "This grant is very important to our growing co-op. It shows we're serious about our farming future."

## Rural Enterprise Center hosts Emerson National Hunger Fellow

[Kate Taylor](#) joins Main Street Project's Rural Enterprise Center team for the next six months as an [Emerson National Hunger Fellow](#). A Chicago native and recent graduate of Brown University, she is one of 20 participants selected nationally as part of a unique leadership program focused on innovative solutions to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Following her time with us, she'll spend six months in Washington, DC focusing on policy work. Contact her at [kate@mainstreetproject.org](mailto:kate@mainstreetproject.org). Welcome Kate!



Kate Taylor

## Rural Enterprise Center news

- Our Northfield office has moved! Here's the new address: 105 4th St. E., Suite 300, Northfield MN 55057
- Minnesota Public Radio's August 30 story, "['Latino agripreneurs' move from workers to owners](#)" was picked up by newspapers across Minnesota and North Dakota. Farmers Maria Sosa and Todd Prink tell their stories, along with Rural Enterprise Center Director, Regi Haslett-Marroquin. Definitely worth a read or a listen.
- Recent Carleton graduate Katie Blanchard joined us as a Rural Enterprise Center volunteer, helping new agripreneurs with their business plans. Katie previously spent two years as coordinator of the Northfield Community Gardens and we're glad she's back!
- Special thanks to our most recent funders for their support: [Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation \(SMIF\)](#) and [AgStar Fund for Rural America](#).

## Census outreach pays off

Train-the-Trainer events, Salsa for Your Census, door knocking, community meetings, op-eds and phone interviews, more than 35,00 four-language Community Census Guides - we put many different tactics to work to ensure that historically hard-to-count Minnesota communities were heard from. Minnesota's 80 percent

participation rate was the second highest in the nation (Star Tribune, May 2010). Higher than expected results from Latin@ and other communities of color likely helped to save Minnesota's at-risk Congressional seat.

Thanks to our organizing partners, and to the funders who made this important work possible: [Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund](#), [Blandin Foundation](#), [Hispanics in Philanthropy](#), [Minneapolis Foundation](#) and [St. Paul Foundation's SpectrumTrust El Fondo de Nuestra Comunidad](#).

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