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News for our partners and friends | November 2012

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Some questions are so important that they need to be asked over and over again. When many of us ask them together, we start to see progress.

Main Street Project

We see possibilities.

give DAY NOV. 15
TO THE MAX

giveMN.org

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Who gets to vote in our democracy?

A series of powerful videos, social media memes, radio interviews, a media week of action, and a Red Carpet theater event with more than 350 people chanting in unison **"Voter ID Is Voter Suppression!"**

That's what's been happening since [Voices for Voting Rights](#) began working to defeat Minnesota's proposed restrictive voter ID amendment. We're one of 12 partner organizations in the multiracial, multicultural initiative focused on building community power, voice, and access at the polling booth and beyond. The election is next week, but the energy of this campaign sets the stage for ongoing collaboration around our shared priorities. Check out the videos and more at [voicesforvotingrights.org](#) and on [Facebook](#).



And we can't resist sharing this great feedback: "The Community Voter Guide is FANTASTIC!! Thank you so much for putting it together and bringing them to my office for our clients to take and also share." All 20,000 of the printed four-language guides were put to work by community organizations in the Twin Cities metro area, and in Winona, Willmar, Northfield and Faribault. As the guide says: We are all important members of U.S. society and we all have the right to participate. [View PDFs of the guide here](#).

Who gets to earn a good living raising

good food?



Four of the agripreneur training graduates from our sustainable food and agriculture program are on their way - raising their first flocks of natural, free-range chickens on incubator farms, with the help of more than \$22,300 in loans from the [Grow a Farmer fund](#). They're selling their tasty, healthy "Main Street Farmers" chicken to Bon Appetit for Northfield, MN colleges, and directly to consumers at area drop sites. [Learn more](#).

New grants from the [11th Hour Project](#) and [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) will make it possible for us ramp up the expansion and adoption of a new socially, economically and ecologically sustainable system. Program director Reginaldo Haslette Marroquin is on deck to continue that process and conversation at the [2012 Healthy Farms, Healthy People State Meeting](#) in Iowa on Nov. 16.

Who gets to tell our stories? Who gets to communicate?

We're working with Community Action Against Racism (CAAR), KFAI Radio, and a new group called Media Matters on a long-term action plan to address racist media coverage in the Twin Cities. A December 8 Media Fair will gather grassroots leaders and independent media outlets to launch a racial equity agreement of local journalism standards - with the goal of challenging other organizations to do the same.



Program Director Danielle Mkali and a delegation including the Community Justice Project at St. Thomas University Law School and TakeAction met with Congressman Keith Ellison on Sept. 30 as

part of the national Campaign for Prison Phone Justice. As a result, Congressman Ellison sent a powerful letter to FCC Chairman Julian Genachowski urging immediate regulation of exorbitant intrastate rates for calling incarcerated family members. Danielle will also be participating in a Washington D.C. phone justice rally in front of the FCC on Nov. 15. [Learn more about the campaign.](#)

Who helps make it happen?

We're grateful to our strong foundation and individual supporters, but we're also gearing up for Minnesota's annual [Give to the Max Day on Thursday, Nov. 15.](#) Look for us to share more stories of how we're transforming systems - together.

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