



*nurturing connection and collaboration among allies working for change*

## **Our Mission**

*Allies for Change* provides anti-oppression education, training, and resources for individuals and organizations committed to social change. Believing that justice work is deeply spiritual work, our programs invite participants to sharpen their tools for structural change while enlarging their capacities for compassion, hope, and joy.

## **Our Goals**

- § deepen awareness of how oppression, privilege, and power are at work in all relationships and organizations;
- § invite people with privilege to recognize and unlearn the habits and practices that protect their privilege;
- § strengthen the resources for survival, resistance, and community cultivated by those who are the targets of oppression;
- § nurture collaborative action and authentic relationship across differences such as race, age, gender, abilities, and sexual orientation;
- § equip organizations to recognize, and then take action to decrease, the disparity between their current practices and their inclusive ideals.

## **Who We Are**

*Allies for Change* is a network of educators and activists who share a passion for social justice and a commitment to creating and sustaining life-giving ally relationships and communities. Resisting a hierarchy of oppressions and working as allies across difference, we seek to create new patterns of relating and transform unjust structures.

*Allies for Change* was founded by Melanie Morrison, who serves as Executive Director. Melanie's organizing vision was to gather a diverse network of ally trainers committed to the life-long work of understanding where they stand in relation to privilege and oppression and to building authentic relationships across difference. The Ally Training partners include:

- Jill Bedard (Lyons, MI)
- Julia Watts Belser (Springfield, MO)
- Rachel E. Harding (Denver, CO)
- Chris Paige (Philadelphia, PA)
- Melanie Morrison (Lyons, MI)

- Dionardo Pizaña (Tecumseh, MI)
- Monique Savage (Adrian, MI)
- Aaron Wilson-Ahlstrom (Ann Arbor, MI)

Born of the conviction that personal and institutional change are inseparable, *Allies for Change* provides innovative programs that seek to address the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. Action and reflection form the heart of every *Allies for Change* program with the goal of equipping participants to become effective, knowledgeable, and compassionate agents of structural change in their local communities.

*Allies for Change* trainers are available to consult with your organization to provide innovative programs that meet the needs of your community. Our programs are interactive. They invite people to do the deep work of exploring systemic injustice while practicing the strategic and spiritual resources necessary to be effective agents of change. Therefore, most *Allies for Change* events last at least two days and often longer.

**For additional information, contact:** Melanie Morrison, Executive Director, *Allies for Change*, P.O. Box 138, Lyons, MI 48851 ~ [melaniemorrison@alliesforchange.org](mailto:melaniemorrison@alliesforchange.org) ~ 517-230-6727