

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE NWICAIW

Spring of 2008

- Began leafleting of presidential campaign appearances in NWI with a UFPJ Voter Guide leaflet.
- Joined with other Peace Activist groups for a march and rally on the 5th Anniversary of the beginning of the war on March 19th in Valparaiso from the campus of VU to the Courthouse Square.
- Participated in the Valparaiso University Partners for Peace recognition of the 5th Anniversary of the war.
- Joined with Indiana University Northwest-Social Justice group to jointly sponsor a Film Series in March and April about the Iraq War.

Winter of 2008

- Supported the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) “Winter Soldiers” testimony in Washington, DC with a matching funds appropriation for their fundraiser.
- Placed copies of the booklet produced by the AFSC outlining job careers and opportunities in Indiana as alternatives to military service in the guidance counselors' offices of all Gary High Schools and numerous other area high schools.
- Endorsed the Witness Against Torture 6th anniversary of the establishment of Guantanamo event in Chicago.
- Endorsed the No Attack on Iran Coalition and sent a representative to the Evanston convocation featuring Scott Ritter.

Autumn and Winter of 2007

- Joined with other region peace groups in the Third Friday Moratorium by walking the Mall and engaging shoppers in conversations about the impact of the war.
- On December 13th the Coalition sponsored a “Peace on Earth” silent auction fundraiser at the Lake Street Gallery in Miller. Art donated to the cause by local artists was available for silent auction at this cheese and wine fundraiser.
- On December 4th the Gary City Council passed a resolution in opposition to the United States taking military action against the nation of Iran. The resolution was introduced by Councilman Chuck Hughes and drafted by the Northwest Coalition Against The Iraq War.
- On November 16th, the Co-Chairs accepted a community service award on behalf of the hard working members of the Coalition from The Calumet Project for bringing the message of peace to the Calumet Region.
- Joined with demonstrators from across the NW Indiana region to ride the *Peace Train* (South Shore RR) and buses from McBride Hall (American Federation of Labor) to Chicago for the Midwest Mobilization against the war on October 27th.
- Conducted fund raising for CAWI and the October 27th Mobilization against the war.
- Created a new Out Of Iraq – NOW billboard on the Borman Expressway in conjunction with Peaceroots and began a consultant service for a nationwide public service billboard project.
- Supported the Purdue University Campus Greens and the Social Justice Club in a peace demonstration and Eyes Wide Open boots display.
- Continued Saturday vigils in Miller, Highland, and Valparaiso.

- Participated in the Miller Fest in the First and distributed leaflets urging citizens to contact their federal lawmakers to stop funding the war.
- Participated in the Valparaiso Popcorn Fest Parade with the entry Popcorn Celebrates Peace.

Summer of 2007

- Conducted a Memorial Day vigil in Gary, IN on Broadway opposite the reviewing stand for the annual parade.
- Initiated a leafleting campaign in conjunction with continuing Saturday vigils informing citizens of the phone numbers of our Congressional Representative and Senators urging citizens to phone in their opposition of the military surge in troops in Iraq.
- Place advertisements in some of the local press publications listing phone numbers of Congressmen and Senators urging readers to phone in opposition to the military surge in Iraq.
- Leafleted the Gary Air Show in July with information about contacting Federal lawmakers in opposition to the military surge.
- Sent representatives to the United For Peace and Justice (UFPJ) regional convention in Chicago.
- Formed an Advisory Board of local leaders of churches, government, labor, and school organizations to broaden our constituents.
- Conducted a vigil outside the office of Senator Bayh in Hammond at the Federal Courthouse supporting Code Pink's initiative to meet with the Senator.
- Began a new sign campaign outside the Gary/Chicago Airport on a fence donated by a supporter.
- Supported Code Pink's meeting with Senator Bayh at the Government Center in Crown Point on August 21.

Spring of 2007

- Expanded the billboard project to include neighborhood "junior" billboards in various areas of northwest Indiana with two new billboard locations per month.
- Joined organized labor and area student groups in hosting a rally featuring Cindy Sheehan at Indiana University Northwest.
- Participated in Fourth Anniversary observances of the beginning to the Iraq War in Chicago and in Highland, IN.
- Continued weekly vigils at Highway 41 and 6 in Highland, IN and at the Courthouse Square in Valparaiso every Saturday. Tuesday Rallies at the Courthouse in Crown Point, IN.
- Requested and received the introduction of a Resolution by the Gary City Council to oppose the troop surge in Iraq. The Council passed the Resolution voting 8-0.

Winter of 2007

- Met with Senator Lugar's Regional Staff coordinator and delivered petitions gathered in 2006. Participated in a conference call with the Senator's Middle East Foreign Affairs staff advisor located in Washington.

- Received the final approved notice given to students and parents by the Gary Community School Corporation of the students' right to Opt-Out of having their personal information released to military recruiters according to the No Child Left Behind Law (Section 9528).
- Endorsed actions by the Redress of Grievance organization (<http://appealforredress.org>)
- Endorsed and supported the March on Washington, January 27, 2007 with members and financial assistance for five seats on a bus to Washington used by Valparaiso students.
- Endorsed the support of Lt. Ehren Watada in his court-martial trial by the U.S. Army and brought his mother Ms. Carolyn Ho to Northwest Indiana to speak at several locations. (<http://thankyout.org>)
- Endorsed the Courage to Resist movement (<http://www.couragetoresist.org>)
- Endorse the Witness to Torture movement (<http://www.witnesstorture.org>).
- Attended the Rep. Visclosky Forums at various locations around the region and pressed for action on ending the war.
- Voted to affiliate with United for Peace and Justice (<http://www.unitedforpeace.org>)
- Continued weekly vigils on Saturdays at Highway 6 and 41 in Highland.

Autumn of 2006

- Placed a new Out of Iraq sign in Miller on Lake Street
- Participated in the Veterans' Day vigil at the Monument of the Flags in Highland
- Supported at Valparaiso University students at a "lie-in" for peace
- Purchased Out of Iraq buttons and car window stickers for distribution
- Arranged a showing of the film, *Iraq For Sale*
- Presented petitions to Congressman Visclosky and staff members of Senator Bayh
- Continued Teach-ins at the campus of Valparaiso University
- Continued weekly vigils at Highways 41 and 6 in Highland on Saturdays.

Summer of 2006

- Gathered over 400 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Valparaiso Popcorn Fest on September 9th
- Gathered over 340 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Miller Fest in the First on September 9th
- Gathered over 620 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Gary Air Show on September 2nd
- Gathered over 200 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Gary Memorial Day Parade
- Gathered over 500 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Gary Independence

Day Celebration in Marquette Park on July 1st

- Gathered over 100 signatures on our Petition to Federal Lawmakers at the Miller Beach Art Fair and Garden Walk on July 15th and 16th
- Became affiliated with and endorsed the Declaration of Peace www.declarationofpeace.org
- Completed arrangements for the display of an Out of Iraq billboard on the Indiana Toll Road

Spring of 2006

- Supported and participated in Rallies at South Bend (Pres. Bush) and Chicago (3rd Anniversary of the War beginning).
- Supported the Purdue Social Justice Committee hosting of Col. Anne Wright's appearance.
- Conducted a rally and march in Gary at the Genesis Center.
- Endorsed the Veterans March from Mobile to New Orleans hosted by Military Families Speak Out.
- Continued vigils at the Monument of the Flags in Highland (Hwy. 41 and Ridge Rd.).
- Initiated vigils in Gary on Saturday mornings.

Winter of 2005/2006:

- Supported candlelight vigil at Centennial Park, Whiting, IN
- Assisted American Friends Service Committee in hosting the smaller version of the Eyes Wide Open Exhibit at Valparaiso University.
- Participated in the Peace and Justice Symposium at Valparaiso University.
- Supported Purdue Calumet University Social Justice Club symposium on the Iraq War.
- Local participation in the nationwide "100,000 Rings Ceremony".
- Local participation in national memorial honoring the first 2,000 US Iraq casualties.
- Valparaiso chapter opens actions with vigils at the square in downtown Valparaiso and an Opt-Out of NCLB Act initiative with the Valparaiso School Board.
- Continued vigils at the Monument of the Flags in Highland (Hwy. 41 and Ridge Rd.).
- Began weekly noontime vigils at the County Courthouse in Crown Point, IN
- Placement of yard signs and car magnets in two commercial outlets (Miller and Valparaiso) available for a donation.
- Leafleting at Chesterton High School for Opt-Out initiative.
- U.S. Representative Visclosky announced support of the Murtha Resolution calling for an end to the War in Iraq. The Coalition sent members to each of the Representative's local Forums during the Congressional Recess to lobby and thank him.
- The Coalition became affiliated with Chicagoans Against War and Injustice (CAWI).
- Leafleting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Valparaiso University
- Participation in the VU Faculty and Staff Against the War series of seven Monday night symposiums.

- Became affiliated with the Indiana Peace and Justice Network (IPJN).
- Rally at the Avalon Banquet Facility in Merrillville in conjunction with the appearance of Howard Dean and the local Democratic Party Organization.

Autumn of 2005:

- Supported the CAWI (Chicagoans Against War and Injustice) bus trip to Washington, DC for a national anti-war rally on Sept. 24th.
- Gathered petition signatures at Miller's Fest in the First.
- Successful presence at the Valparaiso Popcorn Festival gathering signatures.
- Participated in the Democratic Party Alliance Seminar in Chesterton.

Summer of 2005:

- Gathered petition signatures at the Miller Garden Club and Miller Art Fair event, the Gary Air Show, the July 4th events in Marquette Park, and the Taste of Miller event.
- Met with Congressman Visclosky and discussed his position. More than 2300 individual expressions of opposition to the war were gathered and delivered to Representative Visclosky. He declined to endorse troop withdrawal at the July 30th meeting, but in the autumn announced his support of troop withdrawal from Iraq.
- Christ United Methodist Church Forum.
- Presented the Coalition position on the No Child Left Behind Act (Section 9528) to the Policy Committee of the Gary School Board. They later adopted an Opt-Out Form to be distributed to all Gary high school Guidance Dept. Counselors for distribution to students.
- Established a web-based data base of members and petition signatures for the purpose of funds event notification and lobbying from signature gathered over the summer's actions.

Spring of 2005:

- Informational activities (website, leafleting at South Shore stations, baseball games, regional universities, community events, and summer festivals).
- Lobbied for and succeeded in gaining the adoption of an Anti-Iraq War Resolution by Gary City Council, April 2005.
- Sending of NW Indiana delegations to the Chicago (March, 2005) and Washington, D.C. (September, 2005) anti-war marches.
- Began the lobbying U.S. Representative Pete Visclosky to support HCR 35 calling for a withdrawal plan from Iraq and cut-off of funds.
- Production and distribution of anti-war yard signs and magnetic car ribbons.
- Supported the regularly scheduled (every Saturday at noon) protests at the Monument of the Flags in Highland, IN.