

What did DJJ do in 2020?

- Responding to the pandemic
 - Shifted all work online, both administrative and organizing-related
 - Resource-sharing - matching fundraisers for community partners doing essential work
 - We The People Detroit
 - Thousands of Detroit residents live without running water. [We The People of Detroit](#) mobilizes activists to make water deliveries and collect water donations for Detroiters who are waiting for the city to restore their water service. Your support sustains them and makes their work possible.
 - Auntie Nae's
 - Auntie Na's Village created the **Pandemic Food Box Delivery Program**, which delivers free, weekly food boxes to elders, disabled and immune-compromised persons, and families with small children. The program has ran for the last month, helping to meet the weekly needs of 175 households - about 700+ people throughout the city of Detroit!
 - Rapid Response Team - newly-created body of low-risk DJJniks ready and able to turn out for water distributions, food box preparations, and emergency mobilizations
- Fighting Antisemitism
 - We Rise as One Campaign Launch
 - DJJ partnered with Bend the Arc Jewish Action on the launch of a campaign called **We Rise as One: a Jewish campaign to defeat white nationalism in 2020**. It is a powerful, nationwide campaign to engage in community learning about white nationalism, antisemitism, and how we can kick these destructive ideologies out of the halls of power. The campaign aims to make the right's mainstreaming of white nationalism and weaponization of antisemitism an electoral liability, and to build toward a multiracial democracy rooted in progressive ideas.
 - DJJ Steering Committee held a deep-dive study session in January, which led to the construction of an amendment to the Core Principles, which can be found here → [DJJ Statement on Antisemitism](#)
- H2O Whad'ya know - a first-of-its-kind pub-trivia-style education module about the water justice campaign in Michigan. This program will be used as an outreach tool to engage a broader audience in the fight for water as a human right.
- P.A.R.E. hire. new program for Racial Equity - In June, DJJ launched a brand new program for Racial Equity within the Jewish community. Kendra Watkins was hired as the Program Associate for Racial Equity. Their job includes organizing and empowering Jews of Color in Metro Detroit, while leading synagogue-based Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshops over the next two years.
 - Tisha B'Av for Black Lives - successful online event with more than 200 in attendance

- Havdallah and BLM Teach-In - successful online event with more than 200 in attendance
 - 5 synagogues committed to internal DEI work with DJJ
- Campaign Redesign
 - DJJ spent its first five years focusing on one primary campaign at a time, which included Workers Rights: Paid Sick Leave, Regional Transit: Ballot Initiative, and Water as a Human Right. When the pandemic hit, we were 9 months into a year-long process of redesigning our campaign work, which is our primary program. The process was extensive and involved more than 70 stakeholders. Beginning with an organization-wide evaluation, utilizing a robust research initiative involving other more established organizations in the Jewish organizing, it concluded with a series of ten “listening parties,” the first six in person, and the last four virtually in April and May. The outcome of this process was a fundamental face-lift to our approach to campaigns.
 - The data was clear - our core audience and adjacent stakeholders expect DJJ to be able to nimbly navigate multiple campaigns simultaneously, and pivot resources accordingly.
 - In July, we launched two organizing teams, each with a small portfolio of issues. The Freedom Team and Thriving Team are each going strong! [Learn more about how they work here!](#)
- A Sukkot of Solidarity: March Against Racism in Warren - each year, DJJ utilizes the festival of Sukkot to shine a light on a pressing challenge. This year, we decided to use the festival to show up in support and solidarity for Detroit Will Breathe’s movement for police accountability in Macomb County. DJJ provided food and water for activists throughout the week, and showed-up in solidarity at a march in Warren, designed to show solidarity with a Black family in Warren who had suffered racist attacks. Rabbi Alana spoke and blessed the march with a shaking of the lulav/etrog, asking for “justice to rain down.”
- 2020 Election
 - Leading up to election day, DJJ leaders participated in four distinct GOTV initiatives: MI Interfaith GOTV Phone Banking to people of faith as people of faith, sending 400 GOTV postcards as a part of the ACLU Michigan's "inconsistent voter" outreach, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition's voter education outreach in the most polluted zip codes, and People's Water Board voter registration canvassing to households who had experienced water shutoffs.
 - In the two weeks leading up to election day, DJJ and the MI Fightback Table Faith Constituency Outreach Team hosted three Faith Community Briefings. At these briefings, a total of 42 faith community leaders were brought-in on the communications talking points specific to Michigan, and briefed on what to expect in the days following November 3rd.
 - Additionally, a cohort of 14 local rabbis were networked and resourced by DJJ in the weeks leading up to November 3rd. We connected these rabbis with the Faith in Public Life and Bend the Arc resources, and coached them on what kinds of election communications were 501c3 friendly.

- On election day, 12 DJJ leaders worked as Election Defenders, holding voter care for the full day at two polling places in Inkster, MI. Ahead of election day, all those participating viewed the "Nonviolent Direct Action for People of Faith." Additionally, our Election Defender team sported the interfaith masks from you guys.
- On November 4th and 7th, nearly 50 DJJ members participated in actions demanding that all votes be counted, and that the results be respected. In addition to the team of 4 rabbis who attended, we hosted an interfaith coalition including Methodists, Catholic Workers, Sikhs and Muslims. More than 400 people attended these demonstrations altogether. Three people of faith spoke at these marches - Rabbi Alana Alpert, Reverend Bill Wylie-Kellerman, and Sikh Community Leader Dr. Sangeeta Kaur.
- We continue to utilize the interfaith network to resource the election defense strategy as the vote certification process continues here in Michigan.
- **Join us for Hanukkah 2020!**
 - Are you ready to gather with community and kick 2020's tuchus 🍻🍎 GOOD. BYE!!! So are we!
 - Join DJJ on Thursday, December 17th from 8:00pm to 9:15pm for a ruckus of a Hanukkah celebration! Be in community with your fellow DJJniks as we appreciate all the hard work of this past year and begin anew for what's to come. We'll enjoy some singing, candle lighting, games with **prizes** and a live musical performance!
 - [Register here!](#)
- **Save the Date for the second annual Myra Wolfgang Awards - Thursday, May 5th, 2021**

Campaign Updates

- **Water Justice** - Water access still under threat in Michigan. Throughout the pandemic, DJJniks have been active in advocacy to restore water to shutoff households, while advocating for a moratorium on further shutoffs through the term of the pandemic. Meanwhile, Nestle is still making advances to nearly-free water extraction. There is much to continue to fight for! [See this blog post for pressing needed action](#)
- **Housing Justice** - DJJniks continue to be active with Detroit Renter City, the Coalition to End Unconstitutional Tax Foreclosures, and the Coalition for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. After successfully advocating for a moratorium on evictions through the end of 2020, we are preparing to respond to a wave of foreclosures and evictions in early 2021. [Learn more about the impending crisis here.](#)
- **Immigration Justice** - DJJ grew in its solidarity with Movimiento Cosecha this year. Purim 2020 highlighted the Drive Without Fear/Manejando Sin Miedo campaign, and raised money for Movimiento Cosecha's organizers. Locally, the Drivers Licenses for all campaign has evolved into the Driving Michigan Forward campaign, of which DJJ is a core partner. Stay tuned for more activity here in 2021!

What does a gift to DJJ Do?

- [Check out DJJ's 2019-2020 Annual Report](#)
- Small gifts from individual donors allow DJJ to remain independent and leader-led. When nonprofits like ours become too reliant on grants, the foundations and granting agencies often end up directing the work of the org. Help us keep DJJ strong and mission-driven!

- Because of the pandemic, not everyone is able to show-up in movement spaces this year. You can show your support and substantively sustain the work of Jewish activism through a small gift.