



Happy holidays to you and yours. Many of us end this year and begin the New Year with a resolution or two. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice has adopted some New Years' Resolutions that inspire us. We hope the enclosed resolutions inspire you as well.

New Years' Resolutions for Social Justice

If the Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel is right "the opposite of love is not hate but indifference," we resolve to inform, inspire and awaken the conscience of our state on behalf of our often poorest and yet most promising communities, our cities.

Amidst the Great Recession with nearly 10% unemployment, for out of work workers and laid-off communities, it has been the worst of times with the best of times a distant memory. We resolve to transform this "winter of our discontent" into a season of social justice by lowering employment barriers so that more New Jersey citizens compete for both fair wages and the dignity of work.

Morally mindful of Martin Luther King's admonition that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," we resolve to insure equal justice for all New Jersey's communities so that both urban street corners and suburban cul-de-sacs are equally free of crime and equally safe for all of our children.

With homeownership, still an American dream for many, the courthouse, statehouse and lender's office represent houses of injustice for those who have lost homes through foreclosures fueled by predatory lending. We resolve to seek justice for these American dreamers.

Technologies hold the promise of placing vast galaxies of information, knowledge and even wonder into the tiny hands and heart of a child. We resolve to emulate the imagination and ingenuity of our children to expand pathways to technology for urban kids.

With quality healthcare now closer to a birthright and a human right, we resolve to insure that more New Jersey citizens realize the benefits and savings of healthcare reform as both patients and taxpayers.

A son of Newark and the founder of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Alan V. Lowenstein, wrote, "Social justice should be the underlying goal of all humanity." With our feet firmly planted in his hometown, we resolve to realize that goal across New Jersey, day by day,

throughout the New Year.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

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