<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHLIGHTS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNICIPAL IDs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINNING DRIVER’S LICENSES FOR ALL</td>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson supporters,

We are at a critical moment in history. The administration is violating human rights throughout every corner of this country, harnessing hatred and fear to build a powerful base of support. At the same time, millions of people are standing up in opposition. Here in the Hudson Valley, thousands are joining us to resist hate - as volunteers, donors, and members - and build a movement to win a world where all of us are free to live, love, and work where we choose.

Through this exponential growth, we’ve stayed vigilant to our mission - making sure our fights add up to something more than resistance and winning meaningful protections for undocumented people. We’ve hired a new organizer from our Latinx base, set plans to open a new office, and developed year-round voter engagement programs in six cities. We’ve organized six local governments to demand that ICE stay out of our courts and have trained hundreds of people across the region to protect themselves and their community from ICE attacks. And we’re educating community members about the importance of counting everyone in the 2020 census. When we fight together, we win!

This summer we’ve celebrated our hardest fought victory yet. By taking leadership within a statewide coalition, we won a multiyear campaign to restore driver’s licenses for over 750,000 undocumented New Yorkers — a victory which will prevent thousands of deportations in the years to come. We’ve now won five Municipal ID laws around the region creating the largest network of cities providing this protection in the country. Over 2,000 residents now have a photo ID that will ensure they can pick up their kids from school, access banks and pharmacies, and interact with law enforcement with safety and confidence.

We are not stopping there. We’ve registered over 1,800 people to vote in the last year. As we saw with driver’s licenses, to continue winning landmark victories we need to organize thousands of voters who will elect and hold accountable lawmakers who share our values of equity and justice. As one of New York’s fastest growing grassroots organizations in a swing region of the state, we are uniquely positioned to impact the balance of power in Albany. Our members and volunteers are taking action to ensure that we do just that in 2020 and beyond.

Thank you for investing your hope, love, energy, time, and resources into our organization.

Jonathan Bix
Executive Director

August 20, 2019
We're a grassroots organization based in the Hudson Valley of New York State. We are made up of members, predominantly working-class people of color, who fight around the issues that most deeply affect our community while challenging the systems of power at the root of these problems.

WHAT WE DO

Community Organizing

Leadership Development

Civic Engagement

A (BRIEF) TIMELINE

2012
We form as all-volunteer organization

2014
We hire our first two paid staff

2015
We start our fight for utility justice

2016
We win statewide utility justice victories

2017
We transition to immigration justice

2018
We start a civic engagement program

2019
We grow to a staff of seven!
Rene joined our staff as the Newburgh Organizer!

As a member-leader, Rene has played a crucial role in building our 200-person membership in Newburgh. In a few months, he helped organize our biggest event to date, a 650-person forum on driver’s license accessibility; mobilize hundreds of people for the Newburgh Municipal ID and win; facilitate regular member meetings, and more.

Rene grew up in Newburgh with an immigrant family and a constant fear of being separated from them — especially after 9/11. After the terrorist attacks, an executive order took away his family’s right to get a driver’s license.

Rene’s nightmares came to life when his uncle was deported. His uncle became one of the countless people who couldn’t identify themselves after that executive order. The police thought he was a gang member, and when he couldn’t prove who he was, they arrested him. When they realized their mistake, it was too late. His uncle was ripped away from his family.

As an interpreter for the School District, and then case manager with Family Services, Rene saw that same fear in the children he worked with. “I was looking at these kids, seeing that they were afraid, I saw myself, and I still felt like I couldn’t do anything. I don’t want to be hopeless. I want to do everything in my power to make even a fraction of that fear go away.”

As our Newburgh organizer, Rene will continue bringing people together to fight for meaningful protections so that no child has to grow up in fear.

“...I had nightmares of my parents being deported. I always remember this one dream so vividly: I’m sitting in their car, parked outside our house, and I’m all by myself. I walk out and there’s no one. I always remember that feeling that I could possibly end up alone, without my parents, family, or neighbors.
Over the past year, we've grown exponentially! With increased staff capacity, we've been able to respond to crises and take on new fights. Here are some of them:

**ICE out of our courts**

After ICE attempted to arrest someone in a local courthouse, we took on a new statewide fight: to stop ICE arrests in and around New York State courts. **We won resolutions from six cities, officially endorsing the proposed legislation.**

**Know Your Rights**

When Trump threatened a new wave of mass deportations, we responded with a series of Know Your Rights workshops across the Hudson Valley. **We educated hundreds of immigrants and allies, we warned tens of thousands of people about ICE presence in the Hudson Valley and prevented several arrests.**

**2020 Census**

The importance of the census cannot be overstated — it determines how districts are drawn, how funding for public services is distributed, and more. We're educating our communities about the need to make sure they are fully counted.
One of the biggest issues undocumented people experience is a lack of identification. We’ve fought for Municipal ID programs across the Hudson Valley to address this issue. We developed and passed local laws that create citywide identification cards that are accessible to ALL residents and accepted by the city’s agencies.

Through these victories, we change people’s day-to-day lives, prevent deportations, and keep families together. Municipal IDs are one of the most effective measures cities can implement to protect undocumented people in these times.

**Challenges to living without a form of valid identification:**
- Picking children up from school
- Seeing a doctor or filling prescriptions
- Opening bank accounts or cashing checks
- Reporting crime or interacting with police

Any of these challenges can escalate into a deportation

**5 VICTORIES**
within 6 months

**2,000+ MUNICIPAL IDs**
have been issued over the summer

**Poughkeepsie**

**Middletown**

**Kingston**

**Beacon**

**Newburgh**
Over the past two years, we've focused on a key fight: the struggle to restore access to driver's licenses for undocumented New Yorkers.

This fight started almost two decades ago. New York State eliminated immigrants' right to get a driver's license with the wave of xenophobia that followed the tragedy of 9/11.

Since then, thousands of deportations have started with a routine traffic stop. Hundreds of thousands of people have struggled to live their lives, get to work, visit the doctor, or drop their kids off at school.

752,000 undocumented New Yorkers over the age of 16 were barred from obtaining driver's licenses due to their immigration status. Over 100,000 of them live in the Hudson Valley, where driving is an absolute necessity.

We've played a leading role in this struggle. We are on the Steering Committee of the statewide coalition, Green Light New York, that drove this campaign. We had the responsibility of training the campaign's "Consejo," its statewide advisory council of directly impacted immigrants.

And on June 17th, 2019 we finally won this hard-fought for victory!
On June 17, the law official passes and is signed into law by the Governor.

SEVEN RESOLUTIONS
By March, we win seven resolutions from cities officially endorsing proposed statewide legislation to restore access to driver’s licenses.

NEWBURGH FORUM
In April, we organize our biggest event ever with 650+ people attending a forum for driver’s licenses.

WARWICK FORUM
In May, we organize a 100+ person driver’s license forum.

FORUM IN MIDDLETOWN
In March, we organize a 200+ person forum.

500 PEOPLE STRONG
In May, we play a key role in a 500+ person rally in Albany.

KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE
In June, we are in Albany almost every day visiting our legislators, speaking to the press, and pushing to win!

1,000+ PERSON RALLY
In March, we organize 243 Hudson Valley residents to attend the largest mobilization in the campaign’s history — bringing more people than any other organization in the coalition!

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VICTORY!
On June 17, the law official passes and is signed into law by the Governor.
We combine our civic engagement with our issue-based fights to build our collective power and win meaningful change. In the Hudson Valley, elections at the local and state-level can be determined by just a handful of votes — and our communities can’t afford to lose to the rising force of xenophobia and white supremacy. That’s why we’re fighting for representative elections by registering voters and increasing voter turnout amongst students, working people of color, and new Americans. We believe that we can create a Hudson Valley and New York State for all of us!

We’re just one year into building our civic engagement program. In 2020, we’ll be doubling down to make our mark on critical elections across New York.