

## Social Action Committee Report, 2008

### Members:

Kimberly Richman, Chair-Elect, Roland Chilton, Silvia Dominguez, Courtney Jackson, James Ptacek, A. Javier Treviño, Rebekah M. Zincavage

Members participated via email in two rounds of discussion and voting, first on all of the nominated organizations and then on the final choice. The chair did not vote, but acted as facilitator.

### Nominations:

We received 14 nominations from the larger Boston area. They represent a wide range of organizations addressing variety of important social needs.

### 2008 Award co-winners

Two organizations got the same amount of votes, so we decided to have two co-winners: WAITT House and Haley House.

WAITT House—an acronym for “We’re All in This Together”—was established in 1979 as a non-sectarian, non-profit community based organization that serves more than 130 people a year. Since its start, WAITT House has defined its organization as one of community service, adult literacy, and educational and economic empowerment. WAITT is located in the Roxbury – North Dorchester neighborhood, an area in need of educational opportunities for its adult residents. WAITT House’s mission is to bring people from different cultures and races together harmoniously in a way that empowers them with the education, skills, and support they need to improve the conditions of their lives and their neighborhoods. In addition to providing adult education and literacy programs, WAITT also promotes the development of women’s initiatives and to expand women's access to educational opportunities. WAITT House has also taken a lead role in fostering community activism and in developing leadership skills among adult learners.

Haley House is an organization that strives to mobilize resources to support people in their move toward economic independence and meaningful lives. Their mission is supported by a variety of initiatives such as The Haley House Bakery Training Program, Whats Up (a monthly magazine, featuring issues of social justice and alternative arts and media), the Food Program and by managing 41 units of low income housing, and an additional 69 units in partnership with Madison Park Development Corporation. Other services include a weekly clothing room for homeless and disadvantaged men, enrichment programs for at risk youth, immersion experiences and internships for college students, and three weekly AA meetings.

### Other nominated organizations:

Mary Pat Wright/ “Easy Street Ain’t So Easy”

Liberation Health

FIRE

The Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

EBECC

RESIST  
Crittenton Women's Union  
Stop Porn Culture (SPC)  
UFE  
BWA  
MataHari: Eye of the Day

Submitted by:

Gordana Rabrenovic, Chair  
2008 Social Action Committee.