

Who are we?

It is easier to explain who we are not. We are not a government program, nor a business, nor a church, charity, or political party. We are people working within our communities to organize for a better future.

Community Direct Action is when members of a community come together and use their collective power to directly reach certain goals.

Mutual aid, Decentralization, Democracy, and teaching people a new way to organize are some of the reasons why we are here!

In this booklet you will learn:

- How to organize a group using the spokes-council method
- Three basic forms of voting
- How to organize a meeting
- The essentials for building a strong team

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Community Direct Action
Organizing for A Better Future

Mutual Aid and Dual power

How to democratically organize a community



COMMUNITY DIRECT ACTION

Organizing for A Better Future

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“The mutual-aid tendency in man has so remote an origin, and is so deeply interwoven with all the past evolution of the human race, that it has been maintained by mankind up to the present time, notwithstanding all vicissitudes of history.”

– Peter Kropotkin, Mutual Aid

Within the spokes-Council meeting

Spokes Council meetings can be held on scheduled dates or organized spontaneously when necessary. The goal isn't to bog people down with hundreds of meetings each month, but to make things work seamlessly, so the optimal use of spokes Council meetings is only when they are absolutely necessary. All meetings must be well documented, with comprehensive meeting notes taken every time, that can be archived and relayed back to each team.

The outline of a possible agenda for each meeting could start off with:

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Review prior meeting minutes
- 3) Treasurer's report
- 4) Volunteers report
- 5) Unfinished business
- 6) New business
- 7) Volunteers open dialogue
- 8) Adjournment

If a spoke is appointed with the ability to make Democratic decisions on behalf of their team, they will also follow by the three forms of democracy laid out on page 3.

Dual Power

We're not just giving people sandwiches. We're doing something called "building dual power structures".

"Building dual power structures" is another way of describing the creation of counter institutions to the current system that provide services and goods cooperatively, and push for revolutionary goals.

It is clear that the current system is struggling and many economists believe it is on the verge of collapse. By creating organizations and entities as a community that can take care of each other, we can reduce hardship in times of need.

We want to build our communities and help them organize together to create the world that we want to see directly.

Through building these dual power structures and mutual Aid we provide the solutions that a lot of these people need without having them read a bunch of economic textbooks to see the benefits. They see the benefits when they get the goods and services they require to survive. This brings the people together and gives them something to fight for. They would see the benefits the system would have in their communities and they would want to help you spread those ideas.

It's a way to spread class consciousness through action.

Mutual-Aid

What is a Mutual-Aid?

Mutual Aid is essentially another way of saying "people helping each other". It is a concept popularized by anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin to describe how people work together to survive, and how cooperation across ancient human culture has been the driving mechanism behind our evolution.

"The mutual Aid tendency in man has so remote and origin, and it is so deeply interwoven with all the past evolution of the human race, that it has been maintained by mankind up to the present time, notwithstanding all vicissitudes of history" - Kropotkin

In other words, we strive to organize our community to help each other through mutual co-operation under the axiom "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need"

How does it work?

Feeding the needy, setting up community gardens, community kitchens, free stores, and even donating medical supplies, setting up free health and dental clinics, daycares, clothing drives or getting out into the streets and fixing potholes.

Solidarity versus Charity

Mutual aid is not the same as charity.

There are several different comparisons between the fundamental characteristics of solidarity and charity such as:

- in solidarity we give things away without expectations while under charity they impose eligibility criteria for services that divide people into deserving and undeserving.
- If you need goods or services, they require that you are sober, have a certain family status, have certain immigration status, have no outstanding warrants, have a job etc.
- In solidarity organizing the members are volunteers who work together to make decisions. In a charity the members are the donors, and paid staff.
- in solidarity people participate voluntarily because of passion about injustice, whereas in charities people come looking for a job, wanting to climb a hierarchy or become important.
- in solidarity there are open voluntary meetings with as many people making decisions and doing the work as possible. While in a charity it's a closed board meeting, with governance by professionals or people associated with big institutions or big donors.

“The person who has to bake a loaf to earn the money to buy a slice is not free”

Why Mutual Aid is important!

Donating food, or setting up a free store to give away clothes might seem small to you, but it is far more important than most of the things we pay attention to in National politics

A minor adjustment in the marginal tax code, or a .02 increase in the national GDP doesn't really affect you when you're struggling for food, or your home is falling apart. If you haven't been able to find a job and are facing eviction a politician is not going to help you with your rent. But a mutual Aid group might be able to find some solution.

too often were lost in the spectacle of the national race to pay attention to what's actually important. Like providing food to the single mother of four down the street who is struggling through this pandemic, or providing services medical or otherwise to people who lost their job and would otherwise turn to the street and drugs.

The thing about Mutual Aid is we are not looking at the people who need help as a charity case, we don't need to have a savior complex or paternalistic rescue fantasies that inevitably just make ourselves feel better, we realize that these are just regular people like you or me.

We want to make the people we help feel more human, because any one of us could be there. But need is a temporary situation. Often those who are in need today, will be willing and able to help you tomorrow. Every person you help will want to help you help others. This is how Mutual Aid works

