

## Grassroots Waukesha County – About Us

Grassroots Waukesha County was founded in the summer of 2013 as a partnership with United Wisconsin and Move to Amend. Together we obtained 4200 signatures in 54 days to a 'move to amend' referendum on the ballot in the City of Waukesha. The referendum passed with an overwhelming margin in 2014.

Since then the mission of Grassroots Waukesha has been to advocate for *Democracy, Social Justice and the Environment* within Waukesha County.

### 2016 in Review

The **Waukesha Health Care Initiative** was started in the fall of 2015 and concluded in the spring of 2016. It was a coalition between Grassroots Waukesha, SOPHIA, and the Citizen Action Organizing Cooperative. Our goal was to do something positive to influence public opinion and lawmakers to improve access and remove barriers to quality health care for all Waukesha County residents.

To fulfill this goal, we

- Interviewed over 20 health care professionals, religious leaders, and county officials in Waukesha County.
- Created and distributed 2500 pamphlets outside public libraries in March 2016,
- Made presentations within the community.
- Had two op-eds and 7 letters of support published in the Waukesha Freeman, and
- 7 presenters accompanied by 40 supporters provided testimony and a 50 page report at the Health and Human Services public hearing in April 2016.

In 2016, we hosted **monthly demonstrations** in Cutler Park (downtown Waukesha) in collaboration with other groups when possible.

Collaboration demonstrations included ...

- Predatory Loans (with SOPHIA)
- Climate Change (with League of Conservation Voters)
- Universal Background Checks (with Moms Demand Action)

The **Waukesha Writer's Club** was formed in August 2016. Since then it has grown to 30 members who communicate via email and at bi-monthly meetings.

The purpose of the group is to encourage the spread of liberal and progressive points of view throughout the community primarily as letters to the editor in the Waukesha Freeman and other publications.

Working together gives us the opportunity to discuss the current issues, improve writing skills, and develop persuasive techniques that target conservative readers.

In the fall, we hosted a space at the **Brookfield Farmers Market** for 3 consecutive months. Our goal was to provide the opportunity for passers-by to talk about the issues that were important to them. It was refreshing to discover that so many shared our views and appreciated us being there just to say hello.

Visit us at [www.grassrootswaukesha.org](http://www.grassrootswaukesha.org)