## VOCAL NEW YORK

Members and leaders in Albany to launch our 2025 Civil Rights Union platform and call for justice for Robert Brooks

JUSTICE

ROBERT BRCX

Members attend January statewide legislative awareness day





**Donate** 

#### 2024 by the numbers

3.542 new contacts made 548 new members 788 people mobilized 3.702 times 67 leaders 105 actions 240 media hits 11,771 drop-in center visits 982 participants attended 209 community & wellness groups 5,438 Syringe Services Program transactions 12,328 safer-use bathroom visits 1.078 shower uses 107 drug checking tests 1,565 loads of laundry 1,393 free store visits 14 overdose reversals **37 Safe Haven placements** 1,394 Peer-Delivered Syringe **Exchange encounters** 293,840 syringes 3,583 fentanyl test strips 645 narcan kits 148 Hep C/HIV tests 6,061 uses of the public health vending machine 156 Nurse Practitioner visits 81 Physician visits Click here to see more data from our Services Program

# VOCAL NEW YORK continued



Staff member Shantae Owens training neighbors in overdose reversal



#### 2024 Highlights

- Homelessness Union Leader Milton Perez was <u>invited to attend</u> President Biden's annual State of the Union address in Washington, D.C.
- Won \$400 million for CityFHEPS rental assistance program in the NYC budget
- Led a funeral march at the office of Governor Hochul on International Overdose Awareness Day to demand the authorization of Overdose Prevention Centers and funding harm reduction, and blocked her criminalization plan for the overdose crisis
- Secured \$1 million for rental assistance for <u>HIV+ New Yorkers</u> in Rochester and Albany
- Helped secure funding for <u>Daniel's Law pilot</u> <u>projects</u> in Rochester and Buffalo
- Overrode Mayoral vetoes on the ban on solitary confinement at Rikers Island and the How Many Stops Act
- Celebrated the first full year of the new Drop-In Center's operation
- Officially renamed our block in Gowanus "Carl Stubbs Junior Way" after a longtime leader and tireless advocate of criminal justice reform who passed away

#### Thank you to our 2024 Gala Sponsors!

MetroPlusHealth • Moonshot Strategies

Coalition for the Homeless • Communication Workers of America,
District 1 • Drug Policy Alliance • Kate Linker & Bernard Tschumi
The Action Lab • Ali Forney Center • AmidaCare
Brooklyn Defender Services • Callen-Lorde • Conbud
Housing Works, Inc. • JustLeadership USA • Good Grades
Montefiore Medical Center • National Homelessness Law Center
North Star Fund • Supportive Housing Network of NY • Tom Gilroy
Empire State Indivisible • Evergreen Health • Malkin & Ross, PLLC

Palante Technology Cooperative
Progressive Technology Project • Riders Alliance
Barrow's Intense • Black Cat Wines • Just a Nibble NYC
Threes Brewing

Brooklyn Flow • Harlem Shake Brooklyn • Insa North Star Fund • Two Boots Park Slope

### VOCAL TEXAS | | |

### 2024 Highlights

- Organized the residents of the Marshalling Yard, the biggest shelter in Austin, to <u>win improvements</u> to the conditions at the shelter.
- Passed a resolution through City Council, ensuring 24 months of rapid rehousing rental assistance and better planning for transition into permanent supportive housing.
- Launched our Users Union named the Current and Past drug users Reviving lives (CPR) by our leaders – to unite lowincome Austinites <u>directly affected by</u> <u>the War on Drugs</u>.
- Won investments in rapid rehousing, supportive housing, and harm reduction in Austin City's budget.
- Joined the ACLU of Texas and others to fight for counsel at first appearance (CAFA), resulting in Travis County approving \$15.5 million in funding



Staff and leaders testify at a
City Hall Budget Hearing in support
of funding for housing and harm
reduction services



Donate

470 new members
540 people mobilized
1,332 times
17 leaders
19 actions
25 media hits

1.743 contacts made

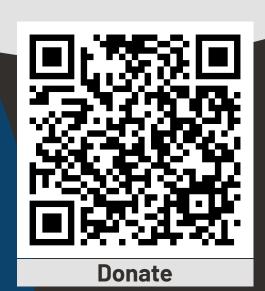
## VOCAL-US

Rally with faith leaders and partners outside the U.S. Supreme Court for Grants Pass v. Johnson to say no to criminalizing homelessness



- Officially launched in July 2024, with our first leaders meeting held in August
- Organized two national convenings on homelessness, substance use, and unmet mental health needs
- Agitated for local and state lawmakers to ensure that \$55 billion in Opioid Settlement Funds was spent on harm reduction.
- Rallied against the <u>SCOTUS Grants Pass v.</u>
   <u>Johnson ruling</u> that enabled municipalities to fine, incarcerate, and cite people experiencing public homelessness
- Pressured President Biden to <u>expand</u>
   <u>clemencies and sentence commutations</u>
   around the 30th anniversary of the 1994
   Crime Bill





### VOCAL KENTUCKY

## HB5 "Safer Kentucky Act" hearing in Frankfort



- Voiced dissent on HB5, repeatedly naming the harmful effects of criminalizing homelessness.
- Hosted the <u>Summer of Organizing</u>, including the Kentucky Organizing Revival, our 2-year anniversary, and 3 No More Drug War Town Halls across Kentucky to educate community members and stakeholders on the failed drug war and the need for harm reduction solutions.
- <u>Launched our drop-in center</u> in downtown
   Louisville to connect people to services
   and care.
- Commemorated World AIDS Day, including with <u>a powerful Op-Ed</u> by VOCAL-KY Leader Ryan Jacobs.



3,471 contacts made
241 new members
1,282 people mobilized
2,384 times
11 leaders
44 actions
59 media hits
8,372 drop-in center visits
575 people showered at special shower events