

Guest at Your Table 2013–2014

Who Are Our Guests?

Advancing civil rights and democratic processes



George Friday is connecting communities to form diverse coalitions that more effectively advocate for their common goals.

George Friday found out as a youth that it can be hard to stand alone against injustice. She trained in community organizing and began building coalitions. As a national field organizer for a civil liberties agency, she helps people understand the capacity of their combined voices and the value of their grassroots knowledge and expertise. She believes that people are often hesitant to speak out because they think that lawmakers, not the community members themselves, are better experts on how a community should be. In order for things to change, communities must change what they believe is possible — and the way to do this is to work together.

Learn more about how UUSC is helping build mutually supportive coalitions in Stories of Hope.

Speaking out to protect women



Malya Villard-Appolon is guiding women to nurture and educate themselves and one another, creating safer and stronger communities.

Malya Villard-Appolon provides support and resources to women and works to end gender-based violence in Haiti. Malya is educating and empowering women to know their legal rights and to talk to one another to create safer communities. Together they are using the power of their combined voices to create a movement that will transform their lives and their communities.

Learn more about how UUSC is helping women in Haiti build communities where all can live free from violence in Stories of Hope.

Rebuilding sustainable communities



Danielle Neus is growing more than food — she is also sowing seeds of community organizing as she helps urban Haitians build a self-directed and sustainable future.

Danielle Neus is helping bring successful rural gardening techniques to the capital city of Haiti. She shares practices that can lead to individual self-sufficiency as well as national food sovereignty. Danielle is teaching people how to grow personal gardens using recycled tires, which serve as containers that conserve water and hold nutrients in the soil. Families gain the knowledge and tools they need to eat healthily, make a living, and build strong, safe communities. She collaborates with other young adults who shared the same vision. They use popular education, which invites Haitians to work together, learn from each other, combine their resources, and find solutions that benefit the entire community. Their next step is to open their own training center in the city, so that they can train more families.

Learn more about how UUSC is promoting a just recovery in Haiti in Stories of Hope.

Promoting workers' rights and a living wage



Nelson Escobar is teaching workers to demand the wages they earned and to claim the rights they deserve.

Nelson Escobar came to the United States from El Salvador seeking asylum but then experienced oppressive working conditions at a cleaning company. When workers are bullied and intimidated, it impacts their well-being, their families, and working conditions for everyone. Nelson found resources at a workers' justice center in Arkansas. Now he helps others overcome poverty, immigration challenges, and language barriers by learning about their rights and accessing support from workers' centers and other organizations.

Learn more about how UUSC is supporting the rights of workers in the food system in Stories of Hope.

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