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# Dignidad, Comunidad y Poder: Make the Road New York 2010 Victories

Make the Road New York

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# Dignidad, Comunidad y Poder: Make the Road New York 2010 Victories

## **Abstract**

Brochure listing Make the Road New York's victories during 2010.

## **Keywords**

unions, labor movement, organizing, New York, representation, AFL-CIO

## **Comments**

### **Suggested Citation**

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### **Required Publishers Statement**

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# DIGNIDAD, COMUNIDAD Y PODER

MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK  
2010 VICTORIES

Make the Road New York builds the power of Latino and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice.

We accomplish this through organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and the provision of survival services.

In 2010, Make the Road New York (MRNY) won vital policy reforms at the city level and for the first time, brought our powerful combination of organizing and strategic policy advocacy to state and national struggles for immigration reform, worker's rights, and educational justice, as well. We launched the Make the Road New York Action Fund, an independent 501 c4 organization, and built its membership to more than 1600, leveraging our capacity to influence public policy. And, we engaged our low-income membership in making our organization more financially sustainable by launching several highly effective new grassroots revenue generation strategies.

More than 1500 new members joined our organization in 2010. MRNY's membership now includes more than 8,000 individuals and hundreds of small businesses in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The power of our collective voice makes MRNY a leading force in shaping public policy decisions that affect our children, our families, and our communities.

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# DIGNIDAD, COMUNIDAD Y PODER



## SHAPING STATE & FEDERAL POLICY

The Wage Theft Prevention Act, envisioned by MRNY members and drafted by our legal team, continues to ascend through the legislative process. The WTPA passed both houses of the New York State legislature in 2010: representatives of the two houses are working to reconcile the two versions to make final passage possible. This innovative legislation will increase consequences for lawless employers who fail to comply with minimum wage and overtime laws and ensure justice for hundreds of thousands of immigrant and low-income workers in New York State.

At the federal level, MRNY continues to press for a fix to the nation's broken immigration system. Members, allies and staff garnered national media attention through a 72-hour fast to demand comprehensive reform and passage of the DREAM Act. MRNY also organized 2,100 members—the largest delegation from New York City—to travel to Washington DC for a march for immigration reform that drew over 200,000 people.

MRNY COMBATED HATE CRIMES BY HELPING TO PASS LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE IMPROVED REPORTING AND BY HELPING TO CATALYZE A MAJOR PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND ENCOURAGE VICTIMS TO REPORT HATE CRIMES.

## COMBATING HATE & DISCRIMINATION

After MRNY's research uncovered systematic discrimination, with help from the New York State Attorney General, MRNY won a campaign to require more than 60 American Eagle Outfitters stores to revise their policies to ensure equal employment opportunities and respectful treatment for transgender employees.

In response to the wave of hate crimes against immigrants and LGBTQ residents of Staten Island, MRNY members organized massive demonstrations, bringing this problem to the attention of the international media, elected officials and the wider public. We are currently leading an intensive, grassroots community reconciliation process to address the root causes of tension on Staten Island.

AFTER MONITORING NYC'S COMPLIANCE WITH GROUND-BREAKING LANGUAGE ACCESS LAWS WON BY MRNY, WE CATALYZED MAJOR NEW CITY WORK TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LANGUAGE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS.

## PROMOTING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

MRNY's student leaders and key allies won our campaign to stop the proposed elimination of free student Metrocards, ensuring free school transportation for hundreds of thousands of NYC students and protecting low-income families from unjust financial burden.

While historically only 8% of residents in our communities go to college, this year MRNY's innovative youth-led college access program, the Student Success Center, assisted 75% of graduating seniors from four Bushwick high schools in applying to six or more colleges. This fall, MRNY opened a second Center to serve four additional high schools in Elmhurst, Queens.

We also preserved access to vital adult literacy programs citywide, by working with allies to prevent tens of millions of dollars in budget cuts to these important programs.

PROVIDED CRITICAL LEGAL SERVICES TO MORE THAN 2,800 HOUSEHOLDS AND HELPED 1,162 ADULTS LEARN ENGLISH, DEVELOP LITERACY AND COMPUTER SKILLS, EARN A GED, OR BECOME CITIZENS.



## SECURING TENANT RIGHTS

MRNY spearheaded the passage of the Multiple Dwellings Registration Act, city legislation that will end impunity for lawless landlords and help tens of thousands of tenants to better protect themselves and their families from hazardous housing conditions.

WE PLACED 97 INDIVIDUALS IN JOBS WITH AN AVERAGE WAGE OF \$12.25 PER HOUR, AND PROVIDED JOB READINESS TRAINING TO 271 INDIVIDUALS.



AT OUR FIRST ANNUAL WALK FOR JUSTICE WALK-A-THON, 300 LOW-INCOME MEMBERS RAISED \$50,000 TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE ENROLLED 200 COMMUNITY RESIDENTS IN FUERZA COOPERATIVA, A NEW PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES FOR MRNY MEMBERS AND IMPROVES MEMBERSHIP DUES COLLECTION.