

## WHAT IS THE 11X15 CAMPAIGN?

11X15 (“eleven by fifteen”)

is a small name for a big campaign.

The longer name is:

*11X15 For Safer, Healthier Communities.*

It is our challenge to the state of Wisconsin to reduce the prison population from its current size (about 22,000) to 11,000 by the end of the year 2015. It is a big goal, but not an impossible one.

Initially, 11X15 is about creating awareness that our current criminal justice system is an expensive failure. It is expensive in terms of money, lives and opportunities that are wasted. It is a failure in that it does not achieve the goals of public safety or of rehabilitation.

On the flip side, 11X15 communicates that there are alternatives to incarceration that are appropriate for many (not all) people who have been sent to prison. These alternatives are proven. They are more effective in promoting safety and health, and they are more just.

11X15 will create the movement needed in our state to reduce our bloated prison population, to end the racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and to treat mental health and addiction problems as public health issues, not cause for punishment.

You can learn more about 11x15 at [www.prayforjusticeinwi.org](http://www.prayforjusticeinwi.org)

## YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

There are many things you can do to be part of the 11X15 campaign.

1. Go to [www.prayforjusticeinwi.org](http://www.prayforjusticeinwi.org) to learn more about the campaign.
2. Call 414-831-2070, or e-mail [wisdomwi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wisdomwi@sbcglobal.net) to get on the list for updates.
3. Ask for someone to make a presentation to your organization, congregation, group or class.
4. Make a donation to help pay for 11X15 materials and events.
5. Join a local 11X15 committee; be part of local forums; visits elected officials, etc.
6. Pray for our leaders, that they might have wisdom and prudence; and pray for the people of Wisconsin that we might have the courage and energy to demand justice.
7. Plan to join the “March in March” of 2013, when more than 1,000 Wisconsinites will go to Madison in support of 11X15.

### Contact:

David Liners at 414-736-2099,  
Rev. Joseph Ellwanger at 414-736-2480

# 11X15

For safer, healthier communities



[www.prayforjusticeinwi.org](http://www.prayforjusticeinwi.org)

*An urgent call to reduce  
Wisconsin's prison population  
by half – to 11,000 – by  
the end of the year 2015.*

# 11X15

*For Safer, Healthier  
Communities.*

## What Is WISDOM?

### A few things to think about as you consider 11X15:

The Department of Corrections now has a \$1.3 billion annual budget (in 1990, it was \$200 million).

*A reduction of our prison population to 11,000 would take us back to 1995 levels.*

Though we have the same population, Wisconsin imprisons more than twice as many people as Minnesota, and we pay more than half a billion dollars more for it every year.

*A recent study shows that the state of Wisconsin saves \$1.93 with every dollar it spends on community-based alternatives to incarceration.*

About 6% of Wisconsinites are African-American; more than 50% of Wisconsin prison inmates are African-American. The system is deeply flawed and unfair.

*The majority of Wisconsin prisoners are non-violent. Most of those suffer mental health and/or addiction issues.*

Mental illness and substance abuse are public health issues and are not best solved through incarceration.

**To learn more about 11x15, go to [www.prayforjusticeinwi.org](http://www.prayforjusticeinwi.org)**

**WISDOM** is a statewide network of congregation-based community organizations that work to live out their values in the world. It includes:

**MICAH** (Milwaukee County)

**RIC** (Racine County)

**CUSH** (Kenosha County)

**SOPHIA** (Waukesha County)

**ESTHER** (Fox Cities and Oshkosh)

**JOSHUA** (Green Bay and Brown County)

**MOSES** (Madison area)

**NAOMI** (Wausau area)

**JONAH** (Eau Claire area)

**AMOS** (La Crosse area)

**RUTH** (Manitowoc County)

WISDOM is a 501(c)3 organization. (Donations to WISDOM are tax deductible) WISDOM is non-partisan, and includes individual members from all political parties.

WISDOM organizations have been deeply involved in Treatment Instead of Prison initiatives since the 1990's. Local WISDOM organizations have been responsible for promoting many of the successful county-level alternatives to incarceration that are now in place.

WISDOM leaders have invited people of good will from around the state to join the call for safer, healthier communities for all.

**WISDOM,  
3195 S. Superior St.  
Milwaukee, WI 23209**

## Why are Faith Communities so interested in this?

Hundreds of religious leaders, from many faith traditions, have signed an open letter to the people of Wisconsin that says, in part:

*"Our religious traditions teach us that justice is related to restoration, not solely to retribution. The biblical mandate "to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8) invites us to balance justice with mercy, to move beyond retribution to restoration. We believe that the justice system must work to restore: to restore victims to wholeness, to restore our communities, and to help those who have offended to be restored to a productive role in our society."*

11X15 is not just for people in the faith community. We are open to all people of good will who believe that now is the time to stand for a healthier, safer community for all people. 11X15 calls our state to re-examine its priorities, values and practices, and to restore balance to our justice system.

*"Be as mindful of prisoners as if you were sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you may yet suffer as they do." Hebrews 13:3*