

Nasco conference 2025
Tess Valero
and
Heather Scarborough

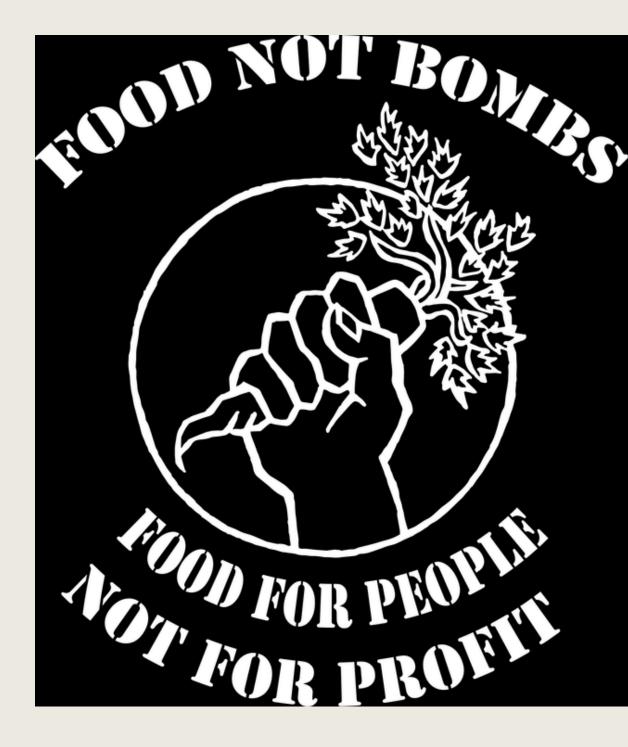
MUTUAL AID DEFIES THE HIERARCHIES AND WHITE SAVIOURISM INHERENT TO CHARITY, INSTEAD ASKING US TO SHARE OUR SKILLS AND RESOURCES IN ORDER TO DECENTRALIZE COMMUNITY CARE, AND HELP ONE ANOTHER BREAK FREE FROM CAPITALISM AND COLONIAL AUTHORITY.

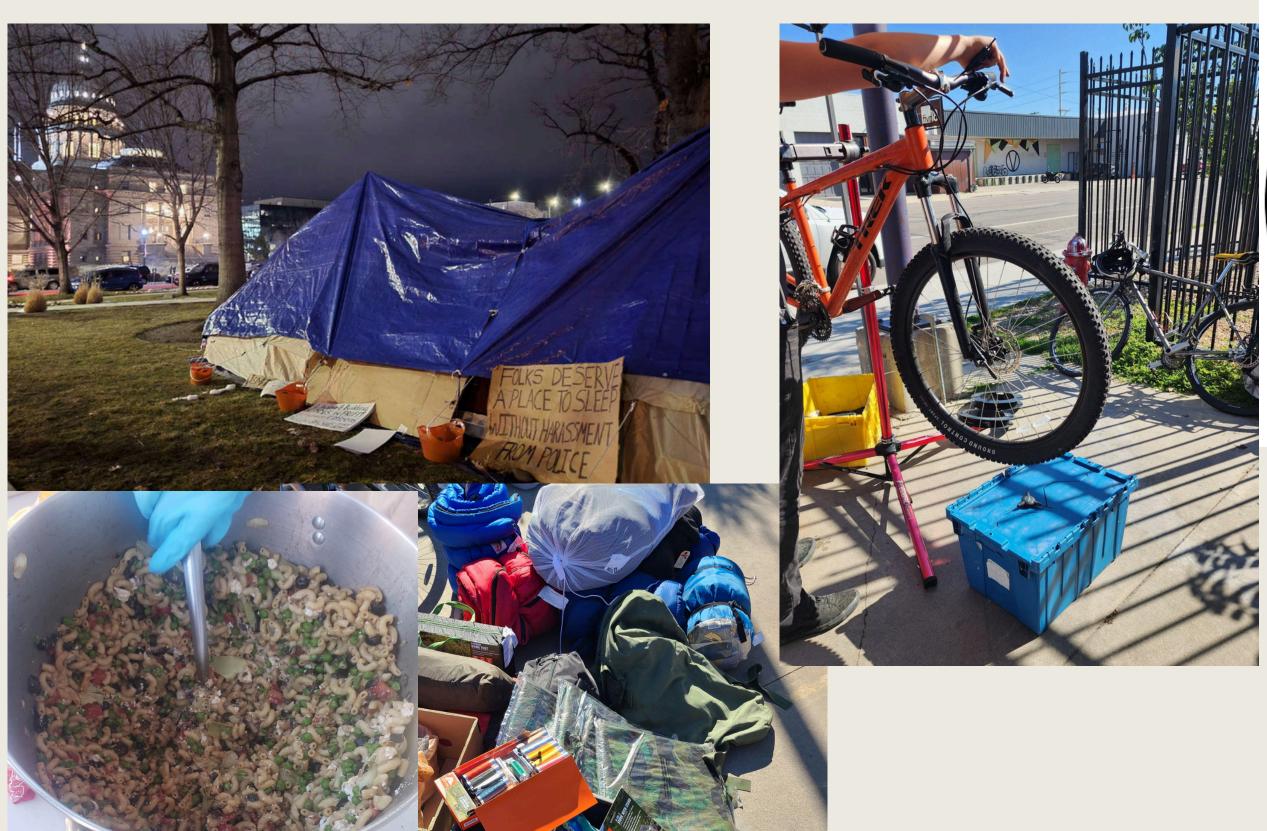
- Dean Spade

THE REALITY IS THAT MUTUAL AID HAS ITS ROOTS IN COMMUNITY RESISTANCE BY BLACK AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BEEN CRIMINALIZED FOR THESE EXACT PRACTICES THAT ARE NOW CELEBRATED BY THE WHITE MAINSTREAM.















WREST COLLECTIVE/REST COOPERATIVE

WREST COLLECTIVE

WREST IS A COMMUNITYDRIVEN, COMMUNITY-FUNDED
NON-PROFIT LAW FIRM THAT
OFFERS LEGAL AND SOCIAL
SERVICES ON A SLIDING
SCALE

REST COOP COMMITTEES:

LITIGATION
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
STEERING
CARE AND REPAIR
HOUSING

ADD TVCOOP INFO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT IS YOUR LINEAGE IN THIS WORK?

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO MUTUAL AID AND/OR COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES?

WHAT HAS BEEN A TIME WHERE COOPS HAVE WORKED WITH OTHER MOVEMENT GROUPS AS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY?

HOW CAN COOPERATIVES EXPAND IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE?

BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND THE FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM



 This program and others initiated by the BPP were a vigorous critique of the American food system that failed to feed its hungry poor and created a blueprint for current food justice movements.

YOUNG LORDS AND THE OCCUPATION OF LINCOLN HOSPITAL



One of their largest and most visible campaigns targeted the Bronx's rundown Lincoln Hospital. The building was overrun by rats, the hospital was overcrowded, and children were getting lead poisoning while receiving care. In addition, it was, according to historian Lauren Lefty, "where medical residents trained while treating poor people of color, leading residents of Lincoln's catchment area to refer to the institution as the 'butcher shop.'" The Young Lords staged a 12-hour-long takeover of the hospital and achieved concrete successes for the community, which Lefty describes as "one of the first patient's bill of rights in history, the first recorded public medical trial after an incidence of malpractice, the creation of an innovative acupuncture clinic, and the eventual construction of a new Lincoln Hospital after many years of empty promises."

STREET TRANSVESTITE ACTION REVOLUTIONARIES



• The short-lived STAR House was on the one hand a social space, one where those shunned from society could find solace, pleasure, and kinship with one another, and on the other hand a space of community rehabilitation where "young queens... could maybe even learn enough skills to start another kind of life."

