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**LEADING SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP HIRES PROGRESS STRATEGIES+ TO TRAIN LEADERS IN PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 9, 2014** – The Micah Center, one of the leading social justice advocacy organizations, has hired Eric K. Foster, Principal of Progress Strategies+ to serve as their Grassroots Leadership Director. The Micah Center focuses on educating people about the biblical call to do justice and how they can respond to that call in their local community.

The Micah Center has organized resident leaders to successfully work with elected officials to develop local policies against wage-theft in Grand Rapids, MI and working with those officials and agencies to prevent the proliferation of payday lending services—while promoting alternative funding for those who need access to money. Eric has been a leader with the center’s wage theft-task force, school-to-prison pipeline advocacy and immigration reform.

“I worked in my volunteer time with the Micah Center on confronting justice issues including wage-theft and successfully working with them and City of Grand Rapids to create a rule that now prohibits contractors from not paying—or under paying—their workers,” recalls Foster. He adds that “It is my first-hand knowledge of their great work to inform and inspire resident leaders to create opportunity and fairness for their neighbor. I look forward to my next journey helping more men and women engage in the public policy process to advocate for more opportunity and fairness.”

With experience in federal and local government as well as corporate public affairs, Foster will use his experience and Progress Strategies+ tactics to equip grass-roots leaders to constructively engage the political system through the Micah Center advocacy groups, prepare those advocacy groups to welcome affected communities and serve as a strategic consultant for advocacy groups. The Micah Center is a client in the Progress Strategies+ Public Policy and Advocacy work area.

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