

EJC Newsletter

economicjusticecoalition.org

DECEMBER 2024

Economic Justice Coalitions Year-In-Review

This year has been nothing short of transformative for the Economic Justice Coalition. From spearheading voter registration drives to safeguarding election integrity, we've worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone in our community has the tools and knowledge to make their voices heard. This year, we've faced challenges, celebrated victories, and forged ahead with unwavering commitment—and none of it would have been possible without the incredible efforts of our staff and the steadfast support of our community.

Over the past 11 months, our team has gone above and beyond, working day in and day out to engage with people across the region. Whether knocking on doors, hosting events, or reaching out online, our staff made it their mission to ensure that every person they encountered was either registered to vote or on their way to being registered. Their dedication has paid off in a big way: thanks to their hard work—and the willingness of our community to engage—we proudly registered over 1,500 people this year!

But the numbers only tell part of the story. This year has also been about connection, education, and empowerment. It's about the countless conversations our canvassers had with individuals, helping them understand the importance of their vote and giving them the confidence to use it. It's about the events we organized to bring people together, foster dialogue, and strengthen our community. And it's about the collective effort that made all of this possible.

We are profoundly grateful for our exceptional team, whose passion and perseverance inspire us daily, and for the wonderful community that continues to stand with us in the fight for justice. Together, we've made incredible strides this year—and we couldn't have done it without you. As we reflect on the past year, we invite you to take a moment to celebrate these achievements with us. Please enjoy our Year-in-Review, which highlights the important events and milestones from each month of this unforgettable year. Thank you for being part of this journey, and here's to even greater accomplishments in the year to come!

January: EJC PARTners with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for Black Male Voter Outreach Event



Image credit: Jennifer Richardson - Delta Sigma Theta - Athens Canvasser

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has carved a profound legacy as a bastion of service and activism, with roots deeply embedded in a history of unwavering dedication to social and political transformation. Founded in 1913 at Howard University, this sorority emerged from the vision of 22 pioneering women, driven by a mission to champion academic excellence, offer support to the underserved, and confront the prevailing social issues of their era.

A mere two months after its establishment, Delta Sigma Theta made a resounding entry onto the public stage by actively participating in the Women's Suffrage March of 1913. The 22 founders marched boldly, advocating for women's right to vote and signaling the sorority's early commitment to civic engagement and social justice.

Throughout its storied history, Delta Sigma Theta has consistently embarked on service actions, confronting societal challenges head-on.

The sorority has played a pivotal role in addressing social and political struggles, tirelessly working to uplift marginalized communities and championing the cause of equality. This commitment to service is reflected in the exemplary contributions of its members, particularly those at the Economic Justice Coalition (EJC). Individuals such as Jennifer Richardson an advisor for Zeta Psi and a member of Athens Alumnae Chapter. Linda Lloyd, who joined through the Athens Alumnae Chapter, and notable members like Spring Turner, Ovita Thornton, Lee Smith, and Helen Butler (a charter member of the Zeta Psi Chapter at UGA) have all played significant roles in upholding the sorority's tradition of service.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. remains a formidable force for positive change, its rich history grounded in the principles of sisterhood, scholarship, and service. As it continues to evolve, the sorority's steadfast commitment to making a meaningful impact on society stands as a testament to its enduring legacy.

February: New Scholarship Fund Honors Former Athens Slave Who Founded Augusta's HBCU in 1882

Lucius Henry Holsey, a former Athens slave, embarked on his educational journey at the age of 14 when he arrived in Athens in the winter of 1857, owned by a University of Georgia professor, his third owner. Despite the law forbidding enslaved individuals from learning to read and write, Holsey, inspired by the atmosphere of the town and a burning desire for knowledge, began his clandestine pursuit of education. With earnings from selling discarded rags, he assembled his first library, including two Webster blue back spellers, a common school dictionary, Milton's Paradise Lost, and a Bible. Studying by the flickering light of the fireplace and snatched moments throughout the day, Holsey's determination led him to further education. When the University of Georgia closed during the Civil War, he moved with his owner's family to Hancock County, where he met his future wife, Harriett A. Turner, owned by Bishop George Foster Pierce of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They married in 1862, amidst the turmoil of war, and three years later, they gained their freedom.



(Athens, GA Jan. 27, 2024) The Athens Area Paine College Club is proud to introduce the Lucius Henry Holsey Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the esteemed former Athens slave who founded Augusta's HBCU in 1882. Among the special guests present for the announcement in Athens was Paine College President Cheryl Jones, seated at the center.



February: New Scholarship Fund Honors Former Athens Slave Who Founded Augusta's HBCU in 1882 (Cont.)

In 1868, Holsey received his license to preach, followed by his ordination as an elder in 1869. By 1873, he was elected the fourth bishop of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. His crowning achievement in education came in 1882 when, at the age of thirty-nine, he appealed to the bishops at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the establishment of a college to educate black preachers and teachers. The following year, in 1883, Paine College opened its doors with approximately thirty students, thanks in part to Bishop Holsey's efforts, including a generous contribution of \$100 and his role as the first vice-president of the board of trustees. His daughter, Katie M. Holsey, was among the first graduating class of 1886. In 1897, while on a national fundraising tour for the college, Bishop Holsey found unprecedented success in Athens, the town he had left as a slave years earlier. Addressing the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church's North Georgia Conference, he shattered fundraising records and received overwhelming support. Beyond his contributions to education, Holsey founded churches, wrote and revised religious texts, and edited a newspaper, *The Gospel Trumpet*. He also played a pivotal role in establishing three other schools: Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee; Helen B. Cobb Institute in Barnesville, Georgia; and Holsey Industrial Institute in Cordele, Georgia.



Fundraising chairperson Fred O. Smith Sr. (above) made the announcement at Athens' Taylor-Grady Landmark Commons. The club will present an inaugural \$10,000 gift to the college during this year's Homecoming Convocation on Feb. 9th in Augusta.

March: SISTERS OF THE DIVINE 9 ARE GETTING OUT THE VOTE!



EJC participated in a 3-day Black History Month Lecture Series at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Athens. Our staff member, Spring Turner, who is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. along with other sisters of the Divine 9 (Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sigma Gamma Rho & Zeta Phi Beta) conducted voter registration activities on all 3 nights.

By: Spring Turner

April: EJC/ GCPA Voter Registration



Ms. Linda Stephens and Ms. Helen Hayes conducting voter registration at Clarke Central High School Resource Fair Event for Students, Booths on the Ground.



Ms. Jennifer Richardson with EJC conducting voter registration at Thomas N Lay Community Center at the sneaker ball hosted by Athens Housing Authority and the Inner Community Council.



Ms. Nina Lawrence conducting Voter Registration at Mutual Aid Fundraiser in Athens, GA.



Ms. Linda Stephens at Clarke County Library conducting voter registration

May: Block by Block Campaign and EJC Job Shadowing



In late April EJC partnered with the NorthEast Ga Black Chamber of Commerce to offer a Job shadowing experience with students in the work-based learning program at the Athens Community Career Academy. Pictured here is our Executive Director Broderick Flanigan sharing insights into the role of the Director and the responsibilities that come with that with one of our student participants from Cedar Shoals High School.

The job shadow is a career development opportunity for students from the Career Academy to observe and interact with an Athens area company. The goal is that they gain exposure to the industry they are preparing to enter or explore. This program allows students an opportunity to network and build relationships and communication skills. (Work-based learning job shadowing program description) May First career fair Athens Community Career Academy



The Block by Block campaign in partnership with Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda. We informed residents about upcoming elections and early voting. We registered 13 voters in Rolling Ridge in Athens Ga. Can your neighborhood top that? EJC was in various neighborhoods each month to promote voting and civic engagement.



GET OUT TO VOTE!

June: Mobilizing Block by Block Campaign



June 13th: Mobilizing Block By Block Voter Registration Get Out to Vote with The People's Agenda

July: Voter Registration Activities



Athens Resource Coordinator Linda Stephens at Mother of Black Son's 3rd annual uniform drive at Heard Park on July 28.



Canvassers at the Athens-Clarke County Library conducting Voter registration.



August: Economic Justice Coalition rolls out pledge card program.

Prior to the General Presidential Election, the Economic Justice Coalition rolled out a new pledge card program to encourage people in the community to vote. This pledge card was not intended to take the place of a voter registration card. The purpose of this pledge card was to commit to voting in the General Presidential Election and other upcoming elections.

Our goal for this program was to get as many people in our community as possible to give us their word to vote this year. Voting is a very crucial part of our democracy and it is important we exercise our right to vote!



September: Economic Justice Coalition hosts Justice Fest with UUFA!

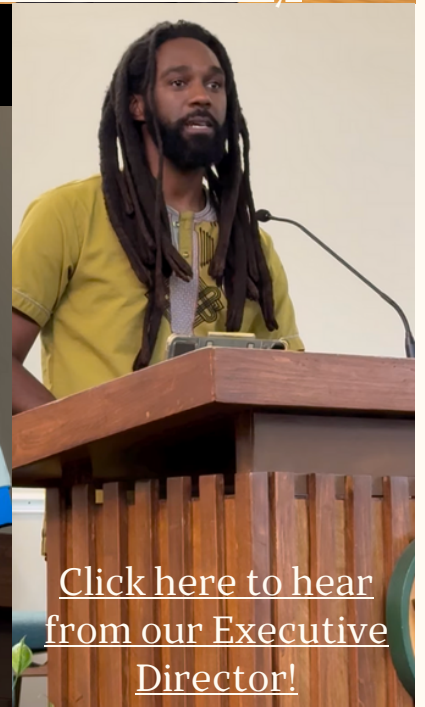
On Saturday, October 26th, 2024, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, the Economic Justice Coalition (EJC) and the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC. hosted the 13th Annual Justice Fest. Justice Fest is a time to get together and honor the people in our community. If you would like to see more from the event, check out our facebook page!



[Click here to hear from the Dr. Ray McNair Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Mr. John Clarke!](#)



[Click here to hear from our Master of Ceremony!](#)



[Click here to hear from our Executive Director!](#)



[Click here to hear the speech Mr. Marcel Mincy gave to introduce the Dr. Ray McNair Lifetime Achievement Award!](#)

October: Overload the Polls: Your Voice, Your Vote.

On Tuesday, October 29th, 2024, at the Miriam Moore Center, in Athens, the Economic Justice Coalition and Georgia's Coalition for the People's Agenda joined the Get out to Vote tour with the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and the National Black Women's Roundtable.



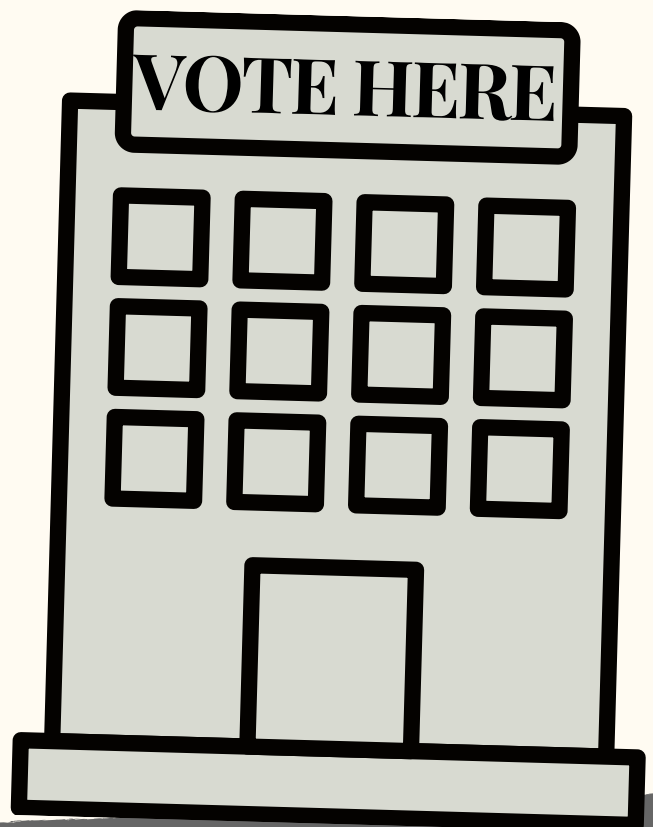
November: Election Month and Rides to the Polls!

November 5th was Election Day!

Along with our goal to register voters, we also aided in rides to the polls. The Rides to the Polls initiative was implemented to help individuals get to and from their polling location during early voting (October 15 - November 1) and on Election Day. We wanted to thank you for your voter participation. We hope that you continue to vote and make your voices heard!

**ADVANCED VOTING
ELECTION DAY VOTING**

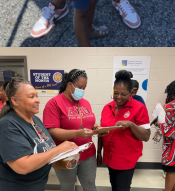
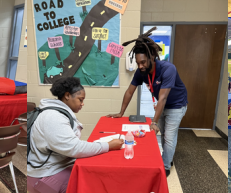
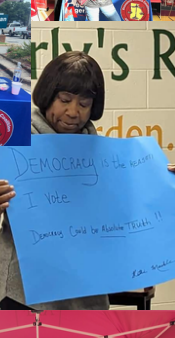
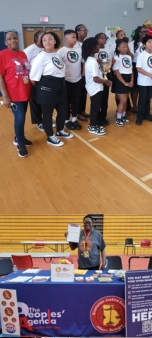
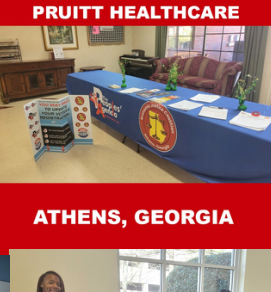
RIDES TO THE POLLS





VOTER REGISTRATION AT
PRUITT HEALTHCARE

ATHENS, GEORGIA



HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!

Help us get the word out about these upcoming dates. Post this infographic on your social media page with the hashtag #EJC2024Election

ELECTION	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE	ELECTION DATE
General Election	October 7, 2024	November 5, 2024
General Election Runoff	October 7, 2024	December 3, 2024
General Election Runoff Federal Office	November 4, 2024	December 3, 2024

Remember these important upcoming dates!

The Peoples' Agenda

[DOWNLOAD THE IMAGE HERE!](#)

The Economic Justice Coaliton



The Economic Justice Coalition (EJC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Athens, Georgia, focuses on advocating for quality jobs with living wages and benefits. Teaming up with the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, we prioritize voting rights, education, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, and equal participation for underrepresented communities.

Operating across thirteen Northeast Georgia counties since 2003, we've registered 20,000+ voters. We actively engage in local governance, attending city council, election board, and school board meetings.

Reviving our origins, the Workers Center at EJC educates and empowers workers. Our initiatives educate on rights, foster leadership, and assist in forming worker-

owned cooperatives and unionizing workplaces. Our initiatives educate on rights, foster leadership, and assist in forming worker-owned cooperatives and unionizing workplaces.

Strategic Goals:

1. Conduct direct-action voter registration and encourage civic engagement.
2. Empower workers to know their rights, develop bargaining skills, and build collective bargaining power.
3. Link living conditions to policies, fostering civic engagement for economic justice.

EJC remains a vibrant force in Athens-Clarke County, enhancing worker conditions, aiding low-income families, and bolstering voter engagement as we grow and evolve.

The Workers Center - AT THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION



Image credit: @reallygreatsite

The Workers Center, established in 2021, has made significant strides in advocating for worker rights and reclaiming over \$100,000 in withheld wages for immigrant workers. In collaboration with the Athens Clarke County government, we've initiated Community Benefit Agreements and supported four workers with legal claims. Our center serves as a vital hub for empowering non-unionized, low-wage workers, especially those from historically marginalized groups like Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities in Athens, Georgia, and surrounding areas.

Worker centers play a crucial role in fostering economic justice by offering education, organizing opportunities, leadership development, and advocacy.

Our efforts include partnering with local unions, lawyers, and organizations, connecting workers with resources, and championing policies for fair wages and improved working conditions. By addressing underlying issues contributing to financial hardships, we aim to create a more resilient community.

Membership at the Workers Center is open to all, regardless of their ability to pay dues. However, dues-paying members participate in decision-making processes, shaping the center's direction. Your recurring monthly contribution as a member empowers us to sustain long-term organizing efforts and create a more equitable future for workers in our community. Join us in building a stronger, more just workforce at the Workers Center.

Above and Beyond Home Care Cooperative, LLC - AT THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION

*Above & Beyond
Home Care Co-Op*

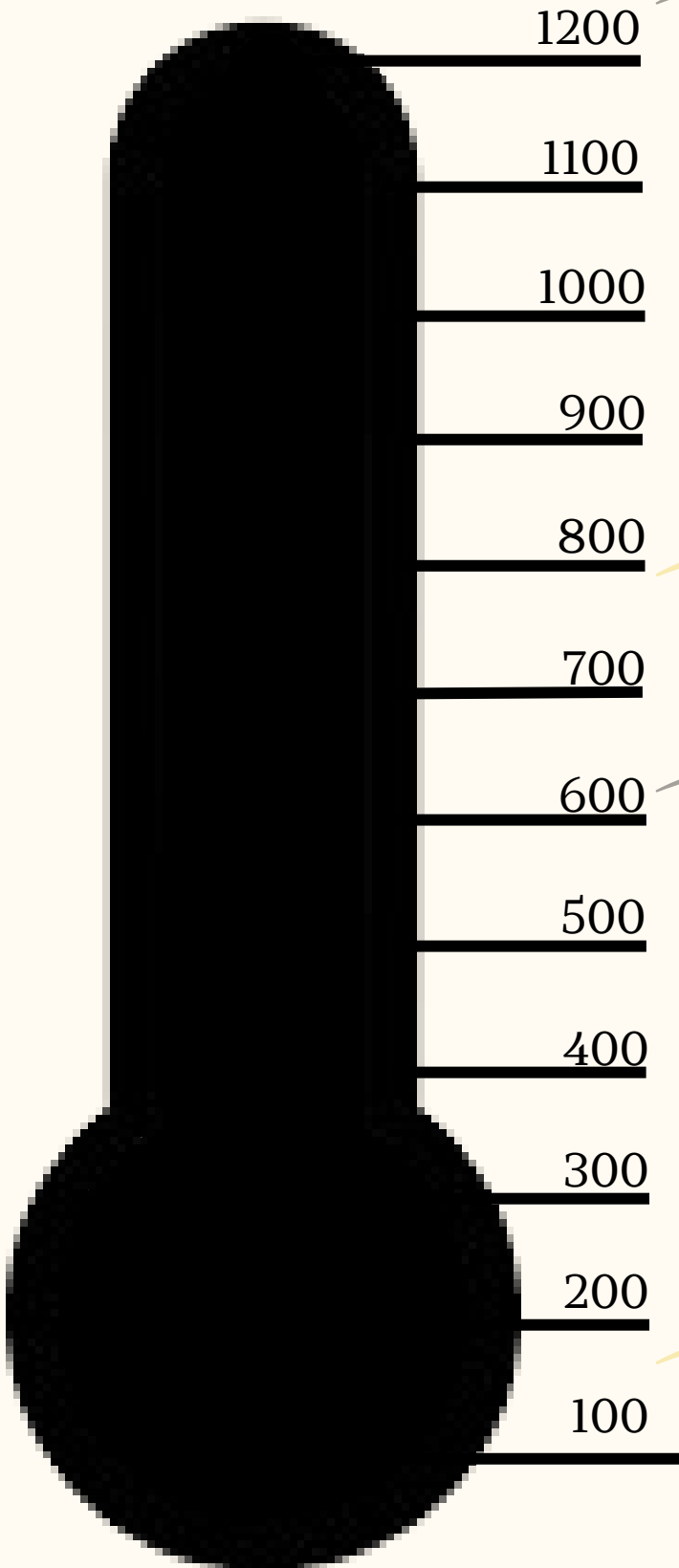


Above and Beyond Home Home Care Cooperative, LLC is dedicated to providing exemplary care for elderly residents requiring specialized attention. As a compassionate home healthcare service, we prioritize the well-being and comfort of our senior community members. Our team of skilled professionals is committed to going the extra mile in delivering personalized care tailored to each individual's unique needs.

We understand the significance of maintaining independence while receiving the necessary support, which is why we offer a range of services designed to assist elderly

medical needs, and emotional support. From medication management to companionship, our caregivers ensure a safe and nurturing environment, promoting both physical and mental well-being. At Above and Beyond Home Healthcare, our mission extends beyond traditional caregiving; we strive to create a familial atmosphere where seniors feel valued, respected, and cared for. Through our dedication and unwavering commitment to excellence, we aim to enhance the quality of life for every elderly individual we serve, ensuring they receive the compassionate care they deserve in the comfort of their own homes.

2024 Voter Count



**We
thank
you
for
helping
us
reach
our
goal!**

How to check your voter registration status

1. Go to: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>
2. Enter your information and Click 'SUBMIT'
3. Once you are in, make sure your information is correct and up to date. If it is not, Click "UPDATE VOTER INFORMATION", then in the top right corner click, 'Edit', make the necessary changes, and then click 'CONTINUE'.

A screenshot of the MVP website's voter registration form. The form includes fields for First Initial, Last Name, County (a dropdown menu), and Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY). A red asterisk indicates required fields. Below the form is a blue 'SUBMIT' button. Underneath the button, it says 'Not Registered to Vote? Register'.

A screenshot of a voter's profile page on the MVP website. The page is titled 'Personal Information' and shows various fields: Name, Gender, Race, Voter Registration Number, Registration Date, Status (ACTIVE), Last Election Date Voted, Address (Residence and Mailing), and buttons for 'EMAIL MY PRECINCT CARD', 'View My Precinct Card', 'VIEW MY SAMPLE BALLOT', and 'UPDATE VOTER INFORMATION'. A large red arrow points down to the 'UPDATE VOTER INFORMATION' button.

Once you log into, you will be able to view the following information.:

- Personal Information with the option to view your sample ballot and precinct card.
- Polling Information with your Precinct Information.
- Voter Participation History
- Your Absentee Ballot Portal
- Your District & Election Officials

A screenshot of a voter's dashboard menu. It features five blue buttons stacked vertically: 'Personal Information', 'Polling Information', 'Voter Participation History', 'Absentee Ballot Portal', and 'My Districts & Elected Officials'.

✧ If your status is not active or if you are not registered, EJC can help with that! ✧

County Election Links:

Staying informed about local affairs is crucial! To streamline access to information, we've provided convenient buttons below, each linking directly to the Registration and Elections office for the 13 counties under our purview. These resources are at your fingertips for easy reference. If you require any guidance or support, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help and may be able to offer assistance tailored to your needs.

[BARROW COUNTY](#)[HANCOCK COUNTY](#)[BANKS COUNTY](#)[JACKSON COUNTY](#)[CLARKE COUNTY](#)[MADISON COUNTY](#)[ELBERT COUNTY](#)[MORGAN COUNTY](#)[GREENE COUNTY](#)[OCONEE COUNTY](#)[HART COUNTY](#)[OGLETHORPE COUNTY](#)[WALTON COUNTY](#)

Donations

Join us in making a meaningful difference in our community! Your support matters greatly to us at EJC. Every contribution, regardless of its size, holds the power to create positive change. Be a part of this transformative journey by donating today. Your generosity fuels our mission. Thank you for considering making a difference with us!



DONATE TO THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION
LINK: [HTTPS://SECURE.ACTBLUE.COM/DONATE/EJCATHENSGA](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ejcatensga)

Economic Justice Coalition Partners with Athens - Clarke County Library to conduct Voter Registration!

Sunday: 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Thursday: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Friday: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday: 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

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Come check us out!



Contact Us



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