



# IN SOLIDARITY

## *Season 5, Episode 4: Returning to our public health roots*

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### Transcript

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[00:00:05.85] This is In Solidarity, a podcast where we draw connections between power, place, and health, and discuss how our lives, our fates are all interconnected. Here are your hosts, Ericka Burroughs-Girardi and Beth Silver.

[00:00:20.55] Hi there and welcome back to In Solidarity. I'm Ericka Burroughs-Girardi, here with my co-host, Beth Silver. This is our fourth and final episode in our series on organizing. But of course, stay tuned for more from In Solidarity with episodes coming out every month on a topics top of mind in public health.

[00:00:43.56] Ericka, I'm so excited that we're expanding in solidarity to, as you said, a monthly format. Be sure to follow us on social and stay in touch by signing up for our newsletter, which you can do at [countyhealthrankings.org](https://countyhealthrankings.org).

[00:00:58.32] What a great series! We're wrapping up on organizing for our health. We've covered public health's history of organizing to improve health. We've looked at how tenants organize to improve housing conditions and their health. We've discussed how labor unions have secured better pay, hours, and safer working conditions. And we've learned about the evidence around organizing positive impact on health.

[00:01:22.94] And now, Beth, for our final episode in this series, we'll hear from a community organizer from New Orleans who's really making a difference, a fantastic example of how public health can engage with organizing to improve everyone's lives.

[00:01:38.13] Exactly, Ericka. Sometimes it takes changing the rules, changing how our society operates to improve lives.

[00:01:45.47] We've been lucky enough to have the physician, politician, and epidemiologist Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, along with Cornell University Public Policy Professor Dr. Jamila Michener, and health economics professor emeritus, Dr. Paul Lee from UC Davis.

[00:02:04.64] Great conversations, Ericka. We're joined in this episode by Frank Southall. He's the organizing and community engagement manager at Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative in



New Orleans. He's led multiple successful campaigns to improve the lives of the city's renters. He's an activist whose passions center around housing, community building, digital engagement and public health. And he's gained a lot of attention for his work on housing, justice, race, and organizing in media across the country.

[00:02:41.88] Frank, thank you so much for joining us today on In Solidarity. I am so excited about this conversation.

[00:02:50.01] Thank you for having me.

[00:02:51.57] Let me start by getting you to set the stage for us. What is the housing landscape like in New Orleans today and what kind of work does the Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative do?

[00:03:04.14] So the housing landscape is pretty dismal. It's like one of those things, it's like, wow, where does one start. We live in a post neo confederate environment in our region. And one of the things that comes with that is very conservative attitudes around property rights.

[00:03:23.48] And so our tenant laws in mass beyond a few tweaks here and there haven't been updated since the 19th century. And then the other thing about our region is very awkward. There's a whole political context around white supremacy and patriarchy and classism.

[00:03:44.69] Then there's the aspect of just activism around this issue. Jane Place, we are organizing 10 units in buildings, not connected at public housing. And we're really the first group to do this in forever. I don't know of any group that has organized in apartment complexes that aren't public housing.

[00:04:12.15] Obviously, there's a rich history of public housing organizing everywhere in our country. But in terms of privately owned buildings, there's not much of a history of that here compared to our peers in New York or Chicago or even Wisconsin.

[00:04:28.05] The tenant movement is very different here compared to elsewhere. As a matter of fact, we're the only organization in the entire state that helps with education and does tenant organizing work. We also birthed the first tenant union, City-Wide Tenant Union, the New Orleans [INAUDIBLE] similarly. And that was the first of its kind that obviously, again, there's been movements connected to public housing. But in terms of the broad majority of renters, they've been left out to dry.

[00:05:05.14] And then coupled that, you have Katrina, which locally, we don't talk about in the context of climate disasters because it was infrastructure disaster. And that's one important thing for people to know.

[00:05:20.02] But the consequences of that have meant that there's been a upswell of massive gentrification displacement, partially because going back to the public housing piece, our housing authority demolished a big four public complexes, the house over 20,000 people.



[00:05:43.19] And then on top of that, because we have such terrible landlord tenant laws, it's pretty easy to be displaced from your home within 10 days of getting a notice to vacate to leave. Some people, even it's legal in our state for tenants to sign away their right to notify that they're being taken to eviction court.

[00:06:07.38] Some people get what's considered to be a five-day notice, and then on the fifth day they're in eviction court. And then if they're found to be in the wrong, or if the judge rules against them, they have a minimum of 24 hours to vacate.

[00:06:23.90] So people are evicted and dispossessed of their home, their possessions, their community, their culture within a matter of days. So there's nowhere else really in our country where it's this extreme due to a combination of the way the white supremacy operates, the history overall, the political landscape, the issues around climate change, and then just the fact that we are a hot and very popular city.

[00:06:56.14] Average one bedroom right now is around 1,200 to 1,500. But the salaries, in particular, especially for Black New Orleanians, and particularly, even more for Black women in our city, is incredibly low. So I apologize, that's a long answer. But it's pretty bleak. But the bright side is that people are rising up, they're organizing, they're learning about their rights. And so things are changing.

[00:07:24.72] Yeah. And thank you for giving us that perspective of what things have been like. Let's get into that organizing a little bit more. So I want to talk a little bit more about your background in organizing. And I also want to know how can community members get started organizing to advocate for better outcomes.

[00:07:48.28] Yeah. So the first part of my background, my mom and dad gave me really great lessons around community work and organizing. And I really got involved in organizing when Cincinnati had a series of riots around the murders of many unarmed Black young men.

[00:08:11.41] And so that's really what opened my eyes to even the idea that I'm walking in my Black man's body or my Black young man body at the time, even with my class and even if I had done traditional things or expected of the son of a physician to do, I would still be impacted by how the society views Black body, the perception of what a Black body does, where it should be.

[00:08:42.29] So that really made me go like, holy crap, this whole system, structurally, needs to change. And so that's how I got involved and got involved in environmental work, of course, police brutality, racial justice work, then gender justice work.

[00:08:56.02] And then I came upon housing organizing work when I moved to Oakland and became one of the many co-founders of Occupy Oakland. And it was there in Oakland, where squatting was used as a tool to talk about the way that banks were dispossessing people of their homes and their community culture.



[00:09:17.71] And so that's how I got involved in housing organizing. And then I came back to New Orleans because I lived in New Orleans a year before Occupy Oakland, where I was the [INAUDIBLE] in AmeriCorps VISTA, the social media work. And I've been like, I really want to go back to New Orleans. And so I got a job at the community development corporation named Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, and the rest is history.

[00:09:41.71] Yeah, that is so interesting. And what you said, that really caught my attention, you were telling me about your mom's background in organizing. And I will tell you, I often find that people who are organizers had parents who were organizers. So it's like a legacy that's passed on through their children.

[00:10:03.30] But what about other folks? Like if they didn't have that legacy in their family, how can they get involved in organizing to advocate like you do?

[00:10:14.36] Yeah. So thank you for reminding me of the second part of your question. So I think really, it's just getting involved in any community activities. I mean, it's interesting, as you mentioned, the piece around how people who are organizers often have someone in their family who's organizer.

[00:10:33.21] The other thing that I've noticed, though, is that people who become organizers, whether it's a professional career or they want to be a member of an organization, thus affecting change, usually, it's just getting involved in community work like the local rec center, just building connections in neighborhoods, doing block cleanups.

[00:10:54.90] I know it sounds a little bit corny, but it's very true. So many people get involved in this work just by being involved in the community. And so that's usually my answer for a lot of young people when they're sort of I want to get involved in this. And it's organize your campus. Every college campus has issues, that tuition's always going up. There's always something wrong with the residence halls. Get involved.

[00:11:24.42] Also, not just on campus, but off campus. Learn about the community. Learn about who's there. Build connections with elders. So I think that's really what it is. I mean, I think that organizing in the 21st century in our country really is just about building community. Because we're so disconnected due to technology and other things that just building community, ultimately, is a way that you can affect change.

[00:11:52.97] Yeah. Thank you for that. And I couldn't agree more, by the way. According to the city health initiative, more than half New Orleans residents are renters. And at the same time, the eviction rate in New Orleans is nearly double the national rate. Tell me about the right to counsel ordinance that the city of New Orleans has adopted.

[00:12:17.58] Yeah. So back in 2001, it was actually not even in place. It was with the Renters' Rights Assembly. There was this young woman who was a second year law student, who went to eviction court, and it was pretty clear that she had anxiety and other issues. And she was making a legal argument about



her law school-- I won't name the law school in this. But basically her law school was notorious for years for processing student loan payments very late.

[00:12:55.84] So like students would basically get their refund that they're using to live on and not work to focus on their studies and other extracurricular-related activities basically October. So she had been telling her landlord, hey, I'm going to get my refund check in late August, early September. I know that I missed June, July, and August. I've had some health issues. I just need to get my refund check and I'll be good.

[00:13:31.04] And the student was a good student, good law student. And her classmates, who I have talked to, remember her as being like quiet, but very robust and very interested in pursuing justice. And so basically, the landlord was just sort of like, I need my money. You have to go.

[00:13:49.07] And so it's just like August 2020, basically, one month after the New Orleans Renters' Rights Assembly did eviction court shutdown action, where people chained themselves to eviction court to stop the processing eviction that day. And de facto, we all shut down City Hall as well. Those two buildings were connected.

[00:14:10.52] And so people are trying to figure out what to do next. And that's also during that time in which the Trump administration decides to come up with the CDC declaration on evictions. Trump didn't want to shut down the eviction court nationwide, so he came up this weird declaration where if COVID cases were at a certain rate, it meant that the eviction court had shut down. Because if COVID was at a certain rate, pre-vaccination, it meant that then you had to shut down bars and other service industry economy places.

[00:14:45.14] I bring that all up to say that what happened after-- going back to young lady, was [INAUDIBLE] to do right to counsel. She went to the eviction court and she got 24 hour notice. Right as she's in the second or third week of school and she has a mental health breakdown and she sets her apartment on fire. And that fire spreads to a few other units.

[00:15:09.41] And so we learned about the situation from people inside eviction court. And the judge was kind of a bully and not really accommodating, was just really awful, given the fact that all our judges are Black folks and the bulk of them are Black women. And so they couldn't use judicial discretion to give her a little bit of a break.

[00:15:34.50] And that's because of the way this machine operates and the understanding that landlords have with judges. And so the judge didn't want to risk angering a landlord. And that led to someone having a mental health breakdown.

[00:15:52.49] Now, obviously, I'm not a psychologist. I'm not counselor. So something could have been brewing anyway. But definitely, it's very clear to us, as advocates, that this law student's breakdown occurred after she pleaded with her landlord to give her a break, wait for the processing of her student aid.



[00:16:14.96] What we recognize was two things. That if she had any type of legal support, they would be able to one, advocate that she gets more time to move out. Another lawyer advocate for you and telling a judge like, hey, I've been in law school. I've dealt with situation. She can get the money, or we can work with community and try to fundraise.

[00:16:42.76] We know the outcome would have been different. So that's when we decided to do right to council. Because we realized that even the as a law student, who could have been the advocate, she could have become a housing attorney. She could have become a gender justice attorney in our city. It's endless had she not had the mental, emotional health breakdown.

[00:17:04.21] But we used that to fuel our right to counsel campaign. And as vaccinations started rolling out in the spring of 2021, we got really scared that basically evictions were going to swoop back up again, even though, tourists weren't coming to city of New Orleans in the way they were before.

[00:17:25.06] And so we organized, and initially, we asked for only \$500,000. And then one of our city council members were just like, Doug, y'all need more. And they gave us \$2.1 million, which is one of the most well-funded programs in the country. And per capita size, compared to Cleveland, Baltimore and few other cities, is a larger budget.

[00:17:50.39] Thank you for sharing that heartbreaking story and how-- I can only imagine how desperate she was to do what she did. The city council ended up unanimously adopting that ordinance that you were telling us about, that that right to council ordinance. Tell us about the kind of strategies that was behind that achievement.

[00:18:15.30] Because I would imagine it would have been things like building relationships, bridging or finding shared interests across sectors and political parties. What were the strategies that brought that to bear?

[00:18:29.61] Yeah. So the first thing we did, of course, was fill coalition of different groups, other groups doing housing work. So we worked with our local organization, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center. We built coalition with Prison Industrial Complex organization, [INAUDIBLE] really good work around prisons. We also built connections with youth groups. We just basically built a really big relation.

[00:18:59.79] The other thing we did is we did a lot of outreach events around chronically neglected buildings owned by slumlords. And so that was a thing where people would tell us like, hey, we're having this issue, or hey, I've been in eviction court for non-payment, but I paid my rent. This is proof I pay my rent. They just keep harassing me.

[00:19:26.31] So we basically tied our outreach to that, as well as we did a letter writing campaign. We did what we call [?] phones [?] apps. I don't think the terms you use elsewhere, but basically, we organize people to call city council members on one day and get them to talk about rights to council on how it would be impactful in their lives.



[00:19:49.89] So we did a bunch of different tactics that were really effective. And then yeah, that was pretty much it. And we got it. I definitely don't think we would have got it up in for the coalition. I think our coalition was very robust and cover a number of demographics, social areas, parts of the city, which is also really important.

[00:20:15.65] We didn't want just focus on the core of the city, where a lot of activists live at. And we want to be all over things. Because New Orleans, of course, is very diverse. It's a very interesting geographical landscape. And so we know that. So we're always trying to do outreach to all these different people.

[00:20:39.40] And building that broad coalition. I hear that. I've been struck by how much power comes from access to shared information. Even today with Google searches and smartphones, it can still be difficult to find information about tenants' rights, information to navigate, eviction proceedings. What are some of the other challenges you see? And as an organizer, how do you find a way around them?

[00:21:11.24] So the main challenges I see are fear. It's pretty simple. People, really, they're losing access to things they have. And I know that's the obvious, but it really is the truth. And according to people's identities, their age, where they're at in life, whether or not they're a citizen or they're documented, people's identities will lead to people thinking twice about whether or not they can take risks.

[00:21:48.67] And then the way that we overcome it, regardless of the demographic population, is just building community, building connections, and realizing sometimes, you may go to a building, where you know that this is it. This building needs to be organized.

[00:22:07.03] But because of demographic folks like you're dealing with a lot of men, who are in permanent supportive housing vouchers. And they've been unhoused, maybe they've been in prison. They're formerly incarcerated. And so they're not likely to take risk.

[00:22:25.43] And what you do is you just build those slow connections. So that when something else pops up, they go yeah, I have this young man's name and his phone number. You can call him. And ultimately, the buildings were organized. That's a lot of the situation is where we've been there for a while. And literally, the people give us a call because they know who we are. And so yeah, that, for me, is really what it is.

[00:22:54.74] That's helpful. The right to counsel ordinance has provided legal services that have helped nearly 2,000 tenants who are about to be evicted. With this, of course, you've seen a decrease in evictions and increase in trust. In fact, that data we found show that cities have legal support for renters have decreased eviction filings overall. What other interventions or strategies are working that you know of?

[00:23:27.75] In terms of decreasing evictions?

[00:23:30.28] Yes.





[00:23:31.68] So to answer your question, I have to actually go back to right to counsel, or at least, I think, important things to define how we consider right to counsel. So we just don't consider a right to counsel to be just a lawyer piece. We believe in creating a holistic ecosystem of active engagement, outreach, education.

[00:23:56.99] We consider education to be the most important piece. And then the legal piece is like last, actually, even though obviously, the legal piece takes up 95% of our budget. I'm doing math in my head. But it's basically the lawyers cost 90% easily, and more like closer to 95%. So it's a part of our strategies. We have basically, as I mentioned, those components.

[00:24:30.14] We birthed a few really interesting things. We started the eviction court monitoring project where we wanted to first get data about who was being evicted, why they were being evicted, and then they mentioned any mitigating circumstances that would have made even the most basic level conservative go like, hey, give this lady more time, stay here. Or hey, don't trust the landlord in this situation.

[00:24:55.24] So basically, we monitor all evictions. And that's how we come up with our data information on who's being evicted. That's why we know that 55% of all people facing eviction or in eviction court, overall, are Black women. We know that 82% of all people, overall, are Black in general.

[00:25:14.95] And that's how we learn those stats. Where we're going at now, is we're interested in more into a qualitative place, interviewing people who mentioned that they are taking care of kids, that they're taking care of elderly ones. We're still trying to piece together how we do that, but that's another discussion.

[00:25:35.32] The other things we do in terms of critical intervention. We create this system called TEENS, which is the acronym for tenant early eviction notification system. And that's why the acronym is TEENS. And with that, we basically send postcards and automatic text messages to everyone who's had an eviction filed against them.

[00:25:58.39] So often, people learn that they're getting a court summons to [INAUDIBLE] eviction court before they even hear from their landlord and before they hear from Sheriff. Because we get all the filings the next day or the next business day. So today is Wednesday, so tomorrow, we'll get all the eviction filings that were filed in eviction court today.

[00:26:24.21] And then our eviction court monitor coordinator, Krista [? Llamosa, ?] will then prepare a stack of postcards and then send out text messages to everyone whose info we have. Then we create a more-- including that, we create a more robust education system. So we do 14 know your rights trainings in English a year, two in Spanish.

[00:26:52.56] And then we worked with activists to create this group called Bad Landlords Nola. So if people are facing eviction, where are they going to go? They're going to Google things. They're going to go to internet. They're going to try searching things. They search for New Orleans landlords, and they see Bad Landlords Nola. It has 30,000 people in them.





[00:27:13.33] Those people are doing peer to peer education. So now they're able to educate the tenant on who to contact. So at least three times tenants are getting the correct answer well before they show up in eviction court, that hey, we can talk with lawyer. Call the City-Wide Renters' Rights hotline, all this good stuff. So those are interventions we have around rights to council that have slowed down evictions in our city.

[00:27:46.03] That's amazing. The security of knowing that you won't be evicted also plays into health and well being. What are the connections between organizing and improved health outcomes?

[00:27:59.48] Well, where do I start? I mean, I'll start with the things that are immediately top of my mind, the more base level stuff. So there's some emotional mental health component. We know that, for example, with unhoused populations, there's been countless studies that have shown greater and better improved outcomes when they have access to a permanent dwelling that they live in, they can rest in, they eat, they can bathe.

[00:28:34.40] So just base level there, [? stats. ?] With the physical health measures, there's a lot there as well. If we're thinking about, for example, diabetes or some type of heart condition, where you have to use some type of medicine-based intervention related to some type of drug, if you don't have a place to neatly, conveniently, and climb control your medication, then you're less likely to stay on that regimen of what you need to do to improve your life.

[00:29:10.65] So whether it's insulin, whether it's like cholesterol medicine, you name it, high blood pressure medicine, if you're on the streets, you're just not able to really follow up. There's also just like the intersection of I haven't figured out a good terms, something I've been thinking about.

[00:29:28.98] But when people are visibly unhoused or they're clocked as a Gen Z likes to use term "clocked" when they're like easily identifiable or stereotypically identifiable as being unhoused, there's so many more barriers for them accessing certain things.

[00:29:48.54] In New Orleans, for example, we know that the police are more likely to stop you if you're in a tourist area or if you're in a much more fluent neighborhood if you look on house. I see cops stopping people with shopping carts all the time.

[00:30:07.17] And so that can have an added impact in terms of psychological stress, in terms of wanting to access in things that are provided for you. Because you're scared of what will happen if you try to get those things.

[00:30:24.83] So yeah, to answer your question, though, it's health and wellness are deeply connected to housing. You can't have good health without housing.

[00:30:35.80] Now, when you see people organizing, when people actually are organizing and advocating for, like you say, better housing conditions, have you seen their health improve? If so, how?



[00:30:50.32] The thing I see personally is people find community. And I think for me, that's the thing where I see significant improvement in people's lives, where basically, they didn't have community before or maybe they had one type of community. And then they get involved in organizing work. And then they build these deeper connections with community.

[00:31:15.77] And so I think that organizing itself is not just about the macro, it's about the micro. I mean, we live in this world where we have all sorts of systems and structures that tell us we're wrong or that we're crazy for believing what we believe in. And to find community amongst people who are challenging status quo is really amazing.

[00:31:40.85] How has public health supported Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiatives campaigns? Can you give a couple of examples?

[00:31:49.76] So I'll tell you how individuals, and hopefully, this is a call and shout out for public health practitioners to get deeper involved in this work. But we do have a number of individuals, researchers, practitioners, students, people who are physicians, nurses, you name it, who are recognizing that it's so much more cheaper for our country to house people in good conditions than it is to mitigate in the other ways like creating more housing, and creating more housing in these rare public private partnerships, where [? LIHTC ?] dollars where the affordability ends in some 15, 20 years.

[00:32:40.50] Or it's so much better to create policies to force landlords to clean up because then, you don't have people coming in your private practice or your hospital with asthma issues. And to go back to name a few examples, exactly, we formulate some partnerships and coalition like our healthy homes ordinance was our city's first comprehensive habitability standards ordinance, something that most states and cities in the North, East Coast, and West Coast have already.

[00:33:12.67] But we got a lot of good support from the health department. And because they recognized that people were having different-- again, asthma issues. So they've been very effective with that, as well as standards around the way that lack of AC can trigger bad outcomes when it comes to blood pressure, heart disease.

[00:33:39.49] Some days in our city from June to September, it can be upwards to 115 degrees with feel like temperatures. And that has a profound impact on the way that your body cools itself. Your body's overexerting itself in terms of cooling itself. That can have an impact on how your other organs are functioning.

[00:34:02.93] And so having the health department and other folks come on board has been amazing. And so one of the things we really want to do in the future is work with our hospitals, work with our schools of public health locally, to really get deeper involved in the housing conversation.

[00:34:23.06] If we're talking about health care, we need to talk about comprehensive things. And we're talking about lowering blood pressure or if we're talking about someone who's prediabetes, we're not going to talk about medication [INAUDIBLE]. We're going to talk about lifestyle changes. So why aren't we talking about lifestyle changes when it comes to the thing that we all need to survive, at home?



[00:34:45.67] Yeah. I love that. And I want to ask you, how can public health, as a field, support organizers and tenants' rights?

[00:34:54.79] So I think just getting deeper involved in these policy fights and organizing I think on local municipal level. So that's the situation. I think health departments need to work with advocates and organizers to create policy change ordinances to strike at impacts within the home or within the apartment complexes that are impacting tenants.

[00:35:23.94] On another structural level, I think, we need public health funders to recognize housing is a crucial thing for all the issues we're working on. And so when you think about a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, they're starting to dip their toes into the housing world.

[00:35:42.70] I would like to see a lot more synergy between convening organizers, policy wonks, and public health practitioners and physicians and nurses. What will look like for our municipalities and states? And our federal government, not starting there, but with our states and municipalities start examining the effects of Reagan deinstitutionalizing people.

[00:36:13.61] What was that really about? What other support services can we give towards people with mental, emotional health issues to keep them off the streets? Institutionalizing people isn't the answer. But the other answer isn't allowing people to die in streets. And that's what we've seen. That's when our country's mental, emotional health policy, when it comes to people who are experiencing acute, extreme mental health issues.

[00:36:45.86] So that's really what I want to see, is us really examine our police budgets and examine how much are we giving to police that could be given towards direct care. It doesn't mean that people have to become some type of radical. These are things that other countries have already figured out. Also public housing.

[00:37:12.22] I know it sounds really like not fully connected to question, but something, think about a lot. Like to take down the public housing, dismantling public housing was extremely racist. Basically, we had the government say, it's not working because of the people here. And there's something nefarious about the community they have, versus understanding, funding, understanding other intersectional issues, rather than getting rid of this housing and then basically auction the land off to private interest.

[00:37:45.09] So that's something I really want to see us have conversations about. Our federal government and state and city governments need to be heavily invested in creating social housing. I've been in social housing Canada and the UK and Germany and France, and there's a lot of discontent. But ultimately, they're good.

[00:38:07.88] Frank, thank you so much for sharing your passion. I really appreciate your passion. And thank you for sharing your expertise with us here on In Solidarity today.

[00:38:17.81] Thank you so much. This is wonderful.



[00:38:19.50] [MUSIC PLAYING]

[00:38:24.31] What a great conversation, Ericka. So interesting to hear about the challenges people living in New Orleans are facing, and how they're coming together to advocate for themselves, for their rights, and for their needs.

[00:38:36.74] Yes. Beth, Frank lives the strategies we reference. And his work with Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative is proof that organizing, whether it's for tenants' rights or better working conditions, is a strategy that works to improve health outcomes.

[00:38:55.28] We're at the end of this four-episode series on organizing for health. Ericka, what stands out to you most?

[00:39:01.78] Our guests shared so much valuable information, Beth-- research, evidence, stories. Maybe my top takeaway is hope, hope that we can improve our communities and our well-being when we work together. And that it all comes back to social solidarity, that the power of many voices, together, advocating for change, is greater than one.

[00:39:27.64] So well said, Ericka. And of course, the theme of this podcast. If public health returns to its roots in organizing, just the act of getting together, as Dr. El-Sayed said, has benefits. When we support our neighbors, when we're there for each other, we can overcome barriers.

[00:39:45.74] I appreciate all of the guests who've joined us, the research and the time that went into this series. Make sure to visit our website, [countyhealthrankings.org](http://countyhealthrankings.org), where we have companion notes for this series that point to data, strategies, and other resources that cover all of the topics we've discussed.

[00:40:05.28] Thank you for listening in. Until next time, I'm Beth.

[00:40:09.30] And I'm Ericka.

[00:40:10.40] And we are In Solidarity, connecting power, place, and health.

[00:40:14.71] [MUSIC PLAYING]

[00:40:19.89] The views expressed by guests of In Solidarity are their own. Their appearance on In Solidarity does not necessarily reflect the views of County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, nor the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

[00:40:32.88] To learn more about our guests' work, to discover additional resources on the topics we've discussed or to find out how healthy your community is, visit us at [countyhealthrankings.org](http://countyhealthrankings.org).