

WAYMARKS TO HOPE

I can hardly imagine living without hope. As for the future of the world, there is a colorful spectrum of possibilities, from the worst to the best. What will happen, I do not know. Hope forces me to believe that those better alternatives will prevail, and above all it forces me to do something to make them happen.

Vaclav Havel



Water is an eternal symbol of regeneration, renewal, and hope. Self-advocates with developmental disabilities in Westchester, New York, made these images to describe ways that they bring hope and renewal to their communities when they have the support to contribute. Waymarks are signs and symbols to help one stay on the right path. These artists have become guardians of hopeful journeys for each other, and they are holding the organization that supports them to a covenant of hope.

In order for us as poor and oppressed people to become part of a society that is meaningful, the system under which we now exist has to be radically changed... It means facing a system that does not lend itself to your needs and devising means by which you change that system.

—Ella Baker

77" x 86.5"

2007



BE DETERMINED TO LIVE YOUR DREAMS

In my vision I imagine I am a person who looks like a gospel singer and a holy person. I see a big sun in the sky with rays shining down on the man. He has a cross around his neck and a Bible in his hand. His other hand is a fist of power, like the “in your face” power people have in the National Action Network. The man has sandals on his feet, because like Moses, God says to take off your shoes when you are walking on holy ground. He is walking on holy ground which is nice and filled with flowers, but it also has rocks on it, because the journey is a rough one. This is an image of me holding onto my dream, and leading others on the path of self-determination.

—Tony Phillips



Creating a vision together can wake up the imagination, commitment, and voice of small circles of people and guide their action to shape a community that recognizes and receives the gifts that people bring.



60" x 45"

2003

Read Tony's thoughts on *Standing Up For Myself*

<http://tinyurl.com/Standing-Up-for-Myself>

ADDIE'S GLORY SHAWL

Give people light and they will find a way.
—Ella Baker



Addie Banks is the first African American Woman to be ordained in the Mennonite church. Addie builds a Beloved Community through her service to the King of Glory Tabernacle Church in the South Bronx, New York City. A circle of women from the Bronx and Mennonite churches transformed a thrift shop skirt into the Glory Shaw which was presented to Addie at her ordination in 2011. The reshaping of the skirt into the Glory Shawl serves as metaphor for the powerful ways that Addie helps others revision their lives from trauma towards grace.

