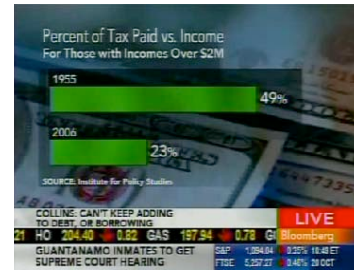


# 12 excellent reasons to support the IPS Program on Inequality and the Common Good

## 2 We're changing the conversation about wealth

Through **Wealth for the Common Good**, we're amplifying the voices of business leaders and high-income individuals who support progressive tax policies. In August, 300 wealthy individuals spoke out in support of rolling back the Bush tax cuts for households with incomes over \$250,000. Now we're gearing up for our next campaign, **Business and Investors Against Tax Haven Abuse**, which will mobilize small businesses in the struggle for tax justice.

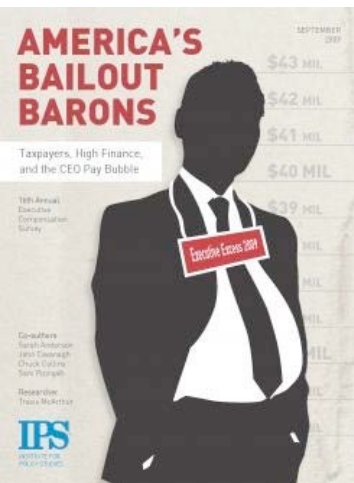


*"Our current tax structure is regressive and unfairly burdens those in the middle and bottom tiers. Ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to be successful and pursue their dreams means ensuring that each and every American contributes appropriately to the nation's well-being."*

– Todd B. Achilles, Balius Ventures LLC

## 3 Our oversight and analysis of CEO pay

For the last 16 years, we've analyzed executive compensation and produced an annual report on our findings. This year's results, **America's Bailout Barons**, examined the pay practices of financial institutions receiving TARP bailout funds. **Forbes Magazine** called it "the most definitive look at who made the most money during the most troubled years on modern Wall Street."

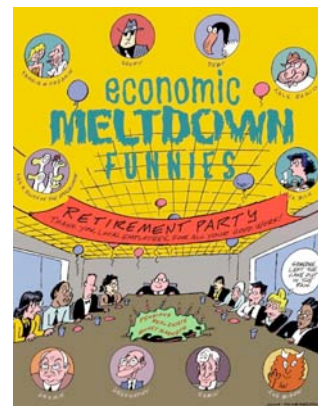


*"CEOs at institutions bailed out by the government were paid 37 percent more than their counterparts in other industries, according to a study released Wednesday by the Institute for Policy Studies."*

– The Wall Street Journal, September 3, 2009

## 4 Our popular education on the economic crisis

We've made our award-winning comic book **Economic Meltdown Funnies** available for free to activists and teachers around the world. Co-produced with Jobs with Justice, it's been downloaded more than 30,000 times and is now available in Spanish.



## 5 We're promoting real solutions for real people

Our team has piloted and supports the emergence of hundreds of **Common Security Clubs**—self-help social action clubs that are bringing people together to support one another in the face of the economic meltdown. Participants are networking for jobs, sharing money-saving strategies and studying the roots of the financial crisis.

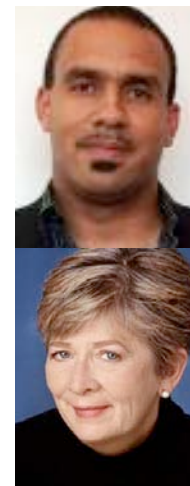


*"When I lost my job, I was plunged into deep anxiety and isolation. My club formed at the right time—and we've been watching each other's back."*

– Nancy W., Common Security Club member, Keene, NH

## 6 We're examining the racial dimensions of inequality

IPS's **Dedrick Muhammad** has been researching and reporting on the racial wealth divide for years. We coordinate the **Race and Economy Forum** in Washington, D.C. In recent months, we've been studying the disproportionate effect the economic crisis has had on African-Americans. This fall Dedrick co-authored a **Sunday New York Times** article with **Barbara Ehrenreich** highlighting his findings.



*"Thanks to a legacy of a discrimination in both hiring and lending, African-Americans are less likely than whites to be cushioned against the blows by wealthy relatives or well-stocked savings accounts. In 2008, on the cusp of the recession, the typical African-American family had only a dime for every dollar of wealth possessed by the typical white family. Only 18 percent of blacks and Latinos had retirement accounts."*

– "The Recession's Racial Divide" Sunday New York Times, September 13, 2009

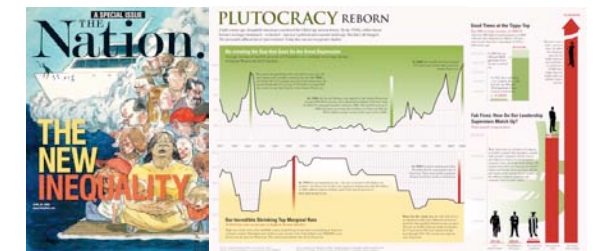
## 7 We're deeply connected to faith communities

Through partnerships with several national religious organizations and denominations, we're advancing a moral discussion about the economy, inequality, tax fairness and the common good. This spring, we created a new curriculum for **Just Faith** ([www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)), a national network of Christian adult-formation programs. The 8-module curriculum, called **LIVING SOLIDARITY: Government, the Federal Budget and the Common Good**, is already being used in several dozen parishes and congregations around the country.



## 8 Our reporting on extreme inequality

We edited a special issue of **The Nation** on "The New Inequality" that won the prestigious **Sidney Hillman Journalism Award** for its variety of reporting. Most popular was our graphic inequality centerfold. **Extremeinequality.org**, our website, is regarded as the premier portal for inequality data, analysis and commentary.



## 9 We have a sense of humor

Our old friends the "Billionaires" are back—this time posing as a satirical group of health care industry CEOs and lobbyists, also known as **Billionaires for Wealthcare**. Now there are more than 40 chapters across the country. Don't miss the video "Public Option Annie" at the website [www.billionairesforwealthcare.com](http://www.billionairesforwealthcare.com).



*"The Billionaires for Wealthcare are the perfect antidote to the know-nothing tea bagger movement."*

– Rachel Maddow, MSNBC

## 10 We promote community conversations across the land

In this Facebook-Twitter age, we believe that our democracy will be strengthened by bringing people together to have face-to-face conversations about the great issues of our day. In Boston, we staff the **Jamaica Plain Forum** ([www.jamaicaplainforum.org](http://www.jamaicaplainforum.org)), a community film and conversation series. And of course we use all the online social networking tools to gather people in the same room! At the national level, we have partnered with our friends at **On The Commons** to coordinate the **Forum Organizing Project** to share tools, ideas and inspiration for a network of over 150 community-based forums around the country. See our 50-page **Forum Organizer's Guide**, available at [www.forumorganizing.org](http://www.forumorganizing.org).



## 11 We are strategic thinkers and activists

There is a longer story about the Program on Inequality and the Common Good, about our role in boosting social movements, our strategies for change and allies and partners. Explaining our analysis strategy requires a fair number of words. Let us know if you'd like to see our detailed program strategy plan, vision and budget.

In the coming months, watch for:

- Our new report on the Native American wealth divide
- Business and investor voices opposed to overseas tax havens and preserving the federal estate tax
- Our campaign to institute federal corporate charters on large corporations

### Donation Information

For information on making a donation to support our work, point your web browser to [www.extremeinequality.org](http://www.extremeinequality.org) and click on "Donate to the Work."

Or, you can mail a donation to us at the **IPS New England Office, 30 Germania St., Building L, Boston, MA 02130**. Please make your check payable to "Institute for Policy Studies," and note "Inequality Program" on the memo line.

## 12 Reducing inequality is good for the economy

Check that chart on the front cover again. For 30 years after the end of World War II, economic inequality in the U.S. dropped dramatically. During this time, U.S. productivity soared, wages and income rose across the board, and millions of Americans went to college and bought homes they could afford with mortgages that made sense. When wealth concentrates at the top, speculative frenzies set in and our economy goes south. Reducing inequality is the best way to ensure broadly-shared prosperity and a strong, stable economy in the coming decades.

### On the Web:

**WEALTH FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

[www.wealthforcommongood.org](http://www.wealthforcommongood.org)

**forum**  
ORGANIZING PROJECT

[www.forumorganizing.org](http://www.forumorganizing.org)

**EXTREME INEQUALITY**

[www.extremeinequality.org](http://www.extremeinequality.org)

**COMMON SECURITY CLUB**

[www.commonsecurityclub.org](http://www.commonsecurityclub.org)

**IPS**  
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

[www.ips-dc.org](http://www.ips-dc.org)

## 12 excellent reasons to support the IPS Program on Inequality and the Common Good

### 1 Inequality leads to economic ruin

In 1928, income inequality peaked in the U.S. The top 1% of Americans took home 23.9% of all income. The following year, the stock market crashed, millions lost their homes, and joblessness soared.

In 2007, income inequality again peaked in the U.S. The top 1% of Americans took home 23.5% of all income. The following year, the stock market crashed, millions lost their homes, and joblessness soared.

But saving our economy is just the beginning. Turn the page to learn about 11 more excellent reasons to support the IPS Program on Inequality and the Common Good...

