

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES



Embracing diversity ... strengthening community

January 24, 2013

- are sponsorships/donations normally from individuals or organizations?
- I've never attended a program, how can we get a better sense for what these are like so that we can speak about our experiences rather than speaking in hypotheticals?

Dear Emily & Craig –

On behalf of the Inclusive Communities' board and staff, please except our deepest appreciation for your consideration to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the **2013 Humanitarian Dinner scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2013 at the Embassy Suites LaVista Conference Center.**

Since 1955, the annual Humanitarian Dinner has been an integral part of Inclusive Communities (formerly NCCJ of the Midlands). Over the years numerous outstanding individuals, community leaders and organizations – lives, values and missions which parallel the vision of this organization – have been publicly recognized for their achievements and many important contributions to our community.

Along with the unique opportunity to connect our message with like-minded chairs and honorees who also strive to build inclusive, diverse, strong and healthy communities, the Humanitarian Dinner serves as our most significant fundraiser – supporting numerous youth and adult human relations and leadership programs which impact over 2000 participants annually. (see attached programming list)

The Humanitarian Dinner enjoys a loyal following, as many have attended regularly for over 20 years. Last year almost 700 guests attended. **This year, we have a goal of raising \$280,000 to support our critical mission and we hope to have 900 community members in attendance.** We credit the success and longevity of the Dinner to a list of distinguished and well-respected chairs and honorees who have graciously agreed to be part of this special event.


This year, we will again honor incredible award recipients, who were selected by former award winners. I am currently in the process of notifying the award winners this week and securing their participation. Awards distributed at the Humanitarian Dinner include: Humanitarian Award, Otto Swanson Spirit of Service Award and the Inclusive Communities Volunteer Award.



As Honorary Dinner Chairs, we ask you to:

- **Host a brief informal Dinner Kick-off Reception** at a location of your choice, generally between 6-7:30 p.m. (several Board members have volunteered locations already)
- **Purchase a table at the \$10,000** level in conjunction with your co-chairs and fill the table with current and prospective Inclusive Communities supporters.
- Provide us with **a list of names** (contact information) for the solicitation process and for the dinner save-the-date and invitation mailing list, to add to our list of annual prospects. You should be willing to reach out those donors and sign letters and make follow-up phone calls to encourage their financial support.
- Collaborate with Inclusive Communities staff and the **Solicitation Committee** to determine the best possible order and ask amount for donor prospects to ensure maximum revenue is generated to support our critical mission.

We have a detailed agenda for the event which we can share with you if you should decide to move forward. Here is what we would need to begin the process:

- A photo of both of you (jpg, esp, gif) along with your bios to be included in the dinner program and press releases. 
- List of people in Excel format which you would like to receive a save-the-date postcard and dinner invitation and indicate who you would be interested in contacting and who you think would be best contacted by someone else on the Solicitation Committee to purchase tickets and tables.
- Recommendations for **individuals you would like to have serve on the Solicitation Committee** to help carry on this important community-building work. We have a list of people who have already been asked to be a part of this committee, as well.

Soon I would like to make firm plans for the Dinner Committee Kick-off Reception, which we hope to schedule for sometime in February. In the meantime, please feel free to call or email me at briley@inclusive-communities.org or 402-391-4460 with any questions.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of this important role. We are all looking forward to working with you in the coming months. I am certain your leadership will help guide us towards a memorable and successful event.

Sincerely,



Beth Riley
Executive Director



*Embracing diversity ...
strengthening community*

Agency Update

Consensus around the following priorities for the next 2 years:

- ✚ Consensus on Program Scope
 - Grow youth programming to add an Additional IncluCity II in 2013-2014
 - Complete acquisition of Omaha Table Talk
 - Grow organization's capacity to conduct CIC (Creating Inclusive Communities) workshops
 - Develop criteria for how the organization will evaluate collaborative opportunities and additional opportunities for program growth
- ✚ Branding
 - Website overhaul to - spring of 2013
 - Marketing/collateral to promote agency's programming & services
 - Overall community awareness
- ✚ Advocacy
 - Develop agency platform
 - Mobilize volunteers and supporters
 - Provide an additional opportunity for volunteers to engage with the organization
 - Joining coalitions/playing a support role
- ✚ Volunteers
 - Identify stewardship tactics to thank and nurture current volunteers
 - Provide opportunities for volunteers to grow in their skills/ongoing training
 - Engage alumni/volunteers in activities on at least a quarterly basis
 - Maintain an updated database
 - Look for opportunities to engage volunteers beyond just IncluCity programming
- ✚ Sustainability & Growth
 - Diversify and strengthen donor relationships
 - Increase stakeholder engagement
 - Strengthen Humanitarian Dinner to provide increased underwriting, present compelling mission-related program and articulate agency's platform and needs

Inclusive Communities
(formerly NCCJ of the Midlands)
Dinner Chair History

1960 Morris Jacobs
1961 E. F. Pettis
1962 Frank Fogarty
1963 Charles D. Peebler, Jr.
1964 Leo A. Daly
1966 J. D. Anderson
1967 V. J. Skutt and Morris E. Jacobs
1968 Charles D. Peebler, Jr.
1969 Bruce G. Schwartz
1970 Paul C. McGrath
1971 W. A. Strauss
1972 Thomas S. Nurnberger
1973 Morris F. Miller
1974 V. J. Skutt
1975 J. D. Anderson and Robert Runice
1976 Leo A. Daly
1977 John D. Diesing
1978 Thomas J. Skutt
1979 Thomas H. Allen
1980 Charles D. Peebler, Jr.
1981 W. A. Strauss
1982 C. M. "Mike" Harper
1983 Richard D. McCormick
1984 Sam F. Segnar
1985 Thomas J. Skutt
1986 John D. Woods
1987 Joseph L. Pfeister
1988 Janice D. Stoney
1989 Michael Walsh
1990 Robert D. Bates
1991 John Cochran
1992 William F. Welsh
1993 Sue and Walter Scott
1994 Dr. Del Weber
1995 Kim and Bruce Lauritzen
1996 Sr. Norita Cooney, RSM
1997 Anne and John Nelson
1998 Gloria and Herman Cain
1999 Judy and Jack Baker
2000 John Gottschalk and Lew Trowbridge
2001 Mary and Mickey Landen and Diny and Jim Landen
2002 Beverly & Harold Maurer, MD
2003 Ivel and John Reed
2004 Susan Jacques and Gene Dunn
2005 Rick and Connie Spellman
2006 Dick and Sharon Davis
2007 Todd and Betiana Simon
2008 Ann and Ken Stinson
2009 Carol and Rick Russell
2010 Michael & Susan Lebens
2011 Annette and Paul Smith
2012 Brad & Ann Ashford

CM: we're out of our league

MISSION

Inclusive Communities is a human relations organization dedicated to confronting prejudice, bigotry and discrimination through educational programs that raise awareness, foster leadership and encourage advocacy for a just and inclusive society.

HISTORY

- 75 years old (established nationally in 1927 and locally in 1938)
- Name Change: though the name has changed twice, the mission has remained the same and the organization has only grown stronger as a result

STAFF

- 4 Full-time – Executive Director, Development Assistant & 2 Program Staff
- 50 trained program volunteers (donate a combined total of 8300 hours each year)

CLIENTS

- Directly serving 2000+ individuals each year (youth ages 13-18 and adults)
- Indirectly serving an additional 5000 individuals (through school-based activities/campaigns)
- 20 participating schools – representing many local districts and levels of education
- 15 non-profit organizations, businesses and places of worship as clients over the past year (*including Avenue Scholars Foundation and Building Bright Futures*)

PROGRAMS

- 25 programs delivered annually
 - Half, full, and multi-day offerings (all ages and sectors)
 - Residential human relations and leadership experiences
 - Year-long, in-school service learning programs

STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES

- Programs are designed to become transformative experiences, offering participants from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to come together to learn about themselves and each other while developing the skills and confidence to create positive social change.
- This process of social capital development allows youth to become informed leaders with a better understanding of collaboration and effective dialogue, critical to assessing community needs and capacities, and deciding jointly on actions that may solve identified problems. (particularly important as intergroup tensions emerge from division such as race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status and violence).
- Programs impact each person differently. While some students use what they have learned to improve personal relationships, others have been known to develop clubs or take action against bias, bigotry or discrimination within their schools. Some pursue careers that emphasize social justice and education as a result of their experience. Former participants have gone on to work with Teach for America, Southern Poverty Law Center, United States Senators, local and national non-profits, universities, the military and beyond. Regardless of where they end up, nearly all participants refer to their experiences with Inclusive Communities as “life-changing”
- The goals and objectives programs are accomplished through a framework of large and small group dialogues, experiential exercises, panels, videos, skits, educational campaigns, special projects and evaluations. Curriculum encompasses current and past events of intolerance, the 5 levels of discrimination (including bullying and violence), conflict resolution, common social justice and advocacy terminology, in-depth analysis of all of the “isms” (race, faith, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender, appearance and class) and action planning.

2012/2013 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

IncluCity I Leadership Institute

IncluCity I is a cutting-edge, time-tested, human relations and leadership program for a diverse group of 60 high school students. In a week-long summer residential setting, students take important steps in confronting bigotry and discrimination. In this safe and respectful environment students examine their own biases and prejudices; discover ways to dismantle stereotypes; build lasting cross-cultural relationships; learn ways to peacefully resolve conflict; and become allies for one another.

IncluCity II

IncluCity II is a four-day, residential leadership and skill building experience that brings together a diverse group of 60 high school student delegates representing 3 to 5 schools at a time. Delegates learn skills to confront and challenge prejudice, bias and stereotypes and discover new ways to become allies for one another. The program also works to reduce acts of school violence and bullying by challenging the assumptions, attitudes and beliefs around issues of difference (appearance, gender, race, faith, sexual orientation, ability, etc.) Along with students, two faculty members from each participating school are selected to take part as advisory staff in the program to further support delegates as they return to their schools and take personal responsibility in creating safe, welcoming and respectful communities. Participating 2012-2013 Omaha/Council Bluffs area high schools include Abraham Lincoln, Benson, Bryan, Burke, Central, Creighton Prep, Duchesne, Millard North, North, Northwest, South and Westside.

Service Learning Internship Program

The *Service Learning Internship Program* provides an opportunity for *IncluCity graduates* to continue sharpening their leadership skills in the areas of advocacy, program development and nonprofit administration while engaging entire student bodies in activities that promote respect and inclusion within their schools. During this year-long program two student interns from each participating school work with Inclusive Communities staff and school faculty to research current or emerging issues of intolerance and discrimination; organize, volunteer and recruit for human relations educational programs; and lead school diversity clubs and social justice awareness activities. Participating 2012-2013 Omaha area high schools include Abraham Lincoln, Burke, Central, Millard North, Northwest and Westside.

IncluCity Middle

IncluCity Middle is a year-long human relations, diversity awareness and leadership development program for middle school students designed to help them understand their role and responsibility in creating a school culture where all students can learn, work and play in peace and mutual respect. Through a carefully planned curriculum, students and staff gain new insights, increased awareness and deeper understanding around issues such as appearance, class, race, faith, ability, and other diversities. Through a mixture of staff development trainings, experiential student leadership workshops, classroom dialogues and school-wide interactive educational campaigns, participants are challenged to leave their "comfort zone" and are empowered to become positive role models and future leaders.

Creating Inclusive Communities

Creating Inclusive Communities (C.I.C.) is a powerful interactive human relations program for students, educators, business professionals and members of the community interested in gaining greater awareness and deeper understanding of our demographically changing community. Participants examine personal and societal stereotypes, biases, and prejudices and gain the knowledge and skills to forge meaningful intergroup relationships. C.I.C. inspires participants to build compassion, empathy and inclusion into their personal and professional lives. Business professionals discover new ways to create safe, welcoming and respectful workplace cultures. Workshops are available in half, full or multi-day formats, and are designed to fit the specific needs of the participating group, organization or business.