

NATIONAL CIVILITY CENTER UPDATE

March 2003

Helping Communities

We are working closely with four communities in the Midwest.

St. Joseph County Michigan: Our ongoing efforts assist them in their renewed leadership development program, youth leadership development, local community council development and their private sector/economic development projects. This spring we will bring Vaughn Grisham in to further advance their efforts.

Muscatine, Iowa: Recently there has been renewed interest in the development of an umbrella organization to oversee economic and human capacity building within the community. On April 11th, we will bring John Kretzman, partner of John McKnight Northwestern University, to Muscatine to meet with Marty Carver and other CEO's. The participants will discuss the need to establish an asset mapping (inventory) of Muscatine.

West Des Moines: Marty Carver and Kent Roberts are working with Les Omotani, Superintendent WDM Schools. We have a number of interesting ideas and proposals in the works to build upon the excellent work already in place. We received this lead from Peter Senge and his colleagues at SOL. The possibilities in West Des Moines are exciting.

Oakland County, Michigan: Oakland County is a large area with a very diverse economic/social population. As of the 2000 census they were the 2nd most affluent county in the country but still had the city of Pontiac, which represents the poorest of urban conditions. We have been very well received and over 2,000 copies of our book are in circulation there. We are working closely with the area education unit (22 large school districts), county government, a local circuit Judge, local foundations, key private sector individuals and corporations. The work is promising.

Others: We continue to stay in contact with the various communities we have worked with in the past. The conversations remain mutually beneficial.

Senge and Bandag Team Up

This June Peter Senge, in partnership with SOL and organizations working with Senge's concepts, will be hosting a conference in Helsinki, Finland. The title of the conference is *Creating Desired Futures for a Global Society*. Bandag Inc. has committed resources to fund a youth track of the conference. The details are currently being worked out. As of now the National Civility Center will be well represented at the conference with Marty Carver, Dick Maeglin and myself attending.

Evermay Update

After many wonderful conversations and considering the possibilities, it looks as if things will not work out to establish a Civility Center presence in Washington DC. Harry Belin owner of the Evermay Estate was unable to rezone the property with Georgetown neighbors and officials. Harry is very disappointed but will stay in touch with us.

2nd Book Soon to Arrive

Our first idea book continues to be in demand. Presently we have distributed over 8,000 copies of the book. *Community Weaving* Our second book should go to print within the next month. This book expands upon the themes and ideas of our first book. It frames the ideas and allows individuals to discover the answers to community improvement. Once again we will be asking you to distribute the books and create additional interest in the material. Jay and I are happy with this book. We appreciate the help and encouragement from all of you.

NCBN Conference Review

Earlier this month Kent attended the NCBN conference in Seattle. Feelings are mixed with regard to the value of this event. Kent continues to find NCBN narrow in focus and vision. If you would like to explore Kent's thoughts on NCBN further, please feel free to call. On a positive note, Sheri Dunn Berry, NCBN's Director, has agreed to discuss the possibility of NCBN and the National Civility Center hosting a gathering to discuss the role of the private sector in community building. Sheri asked that discussions be postponed until after the NCBN conference in Chicago, May 1-3.

Crookham Joins Board

Beth Crookham left employment with the Center to pursue her interest in the entertainment industry. She has taken an internship with a studio in North Carolina. Beth has been a great resource for the Center. As our initial Director of Operations, she helped establish the Center as a legitimate organization. Beth is still helping us with various projects and will continue to do so. We miss her but are excited to have her join our dynamic Board of Directors.

Civility Center Operations

The re-allocation of office duties has allowed new energy to join the Civility Center team. Our office's needs have been met by a variety of resources. Kay Chapman, CPA and her staff continue to meet our book keeping needs. They also assist in our mail service. Tina Haligan, Greenleaf Design, has served in multiple roles in the areas of technology and creative marketing/design. This team has been able to keep up with demand but we continue to monitor the situation and will add personnel as demand requires. Finally, due to a change in the ownership of our office building, we will be moving our Muscatine office in June but will stay in the community. All contact information will remain the same.

In Loving Memory

We regret to have to inform you of the passing of a friend and colleague. Curt Johnson, of the United Way of America, passed away this winter. We echo the words of many when we say he was a kind and gentle soul with a passion for the betterment of communities.