

NATIONAL CIVILITY CENTER UPDATE

October 2003

National Civility Center to Open Field Office in Oakland County Michigan

Since the opening of the Civility Center in 2000, it has served as a catalyst in the community improvement field. The Center's two books *Bring a Dish to Pass* and *Community Weaving* has over twelve thousand copies in circulation. A variety of presentations, gatherings and coaching consultations have taken place. A very active Board of Directors has helped guide the evolution of the Center. Funded by a few private sector individuals and corporations the Civility Center has made a place for itself in the growing field of community building. As it begins 2004 a new chapter is about to open.

Oakland County, Michigan is one of the places that has been a hotbed for the Center's materials and ideas. They have requested over four thousand copies of the books and the Civility Center's Director has made numerous presentations and appearances within the County. He has worked directly with the Oakland Community Quality Council and this opened the door to work with the United Way, Leadership Oakland, County Government, Private Sector Individuals and Oakland Schools. The Center's involvement in the County has added value to their comprehensive initiatives. At the Center's November Board Meeting, three members from the County's Quality Council presented an invitation to join with them in a more formal partnership. The Board felt that the timing is right for a demonstration project and that Oakland County is a great place to initiate this action. The Director will be relocating his office and will be in full operation by April 2004. Details of the office and its progress will be made available in future updates.

Aspen Institute's Roundtable and Civility Center to Host Spring Gathering

Plans are being finalized for a gathering co-hosted by the Aspen Institute's Roundtable and the Civility Center to be held in Muscatine in the early spring 2004. The event's guests will include progressive leaders in the corporate and community-building fields. Also in attendance will be key Foundation individuals who will observe the conversations set to take place. Marty Carver, CEO and Chairman of the Bandag Corporation, Muscatine, IA and Diane Bell, Director of the Empowerment Zone Project, Baltimore, MD will serve as co-chairs of this exciting convening. Anne Kubisch (Aspen Roundtable) and Kent Roberts (Civility Center) will help facilitate the dialogue. Leila Fiester, editor of materials from both the Roundtable and Civility Center will produce a document capturing the spirit and information shared during the gathering.

Stay tuned, as this first of a kind meeting evolves.

Annual Board of Directors Meeting

On the 7th and 8th of November, the Annual Meeting of National Civility Center was held in Muscatine at the Holiday Inn and the Bandag World Headquarters. The event was well attended and as in the past it proved to be a wonderful experience for all. The major topic of conversation was the relocation of the Director's Office to Oakland County, Michigan. Several guests from Oakland County attended the meetings and dinner. Their compelling presentations left little doubt that this direction was the right one to make. Two new nominees for the Board were presented and they were elected to the Board of Directors. We welcome Donna Gaines, President of the Phoenix Company, Chicago and Richard Williams, Director of Community and Minority Affairs for Oakland County to the Board. The next meeting of the Board will be held via phone conference in the Spring of 2004.



Have a Great Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

May the promise of a new year bring us civility and peace. May arrogance and narrow thinking be abolished and may we work together to make the world and our communities better places to live.

Speaking for all involved with the National Civility Center we wish you all the joy and happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

-Kent Roberts-