

NATIONAL CIVILITY CENTER UPDATE

August 2005

Opening of the Michiana National Civility Center Office

The National Civility Center is expanding its capacity by opening a new office in Three Rivers, Michigan. This office will serve Western Michigan and Northern Indiana. Staffing the new office will be Kari Newman, a recent graduate of Central Michigan University. Kari will head the marketing efforts of the Center and assist community organizations within the Michiana area. The First National Bank of Three Rivers has donated the space for the office at their North Main location. The bank runs regular office hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to contact Kari you can reach her either on her office phone; (269)279-3956, or her cell phone; (269)806-3822.

Center's Director to Keynote Major Educational Conference

Over 550 key educational leaders will be on hand in Traverse City, Michigan, at the Grand Travers Resort, to participate in the Annual Michigan Association of School Administrators Conference in September. The three day conference will be highlighted by two keynote presentations. The first by Margaret Wheatley, author and champion of learning, followed by Kent Roberts, Director of the National Civility Center. Both presenters will stress the need for looking at today's educational efforts with a new lens and reaching out to the community for partners. Kent will also present a break out session in which school districts will have the opportunity to participate in an ongoing program using innovative ideas discussed during the session. Jim Betts, Senior Director of Minority Affairs, of the Dominos Corporation will give a few remarks concerning new innovations for corporate investment in communities, during the breakout session.

New York Yankees Executive Invests in the Center

Mark Newman, Senior Vice President of Baseball Operations for the New York Yankees, has made a generous investment contribution to increase the capacity of our Center. Mark is located in Tampa, Florida and is very interested in helping our Center reach its goals and potential. Mark is also the brother of our Center's Board Chairman Jay Newman. Through his gift, we have made it a true family affair in hiring Jay's daughter, Kari Newman as our Marketing Director. Kari heads up our new office in Three Rivers, Michigan. This begins a partnership with Mark and opens important new doors that can profoundly impact the future of our Center.

Words From the Director

It is the intent of the National Civility Center to send our "Dialogue Newsletter" on a quarterly basis and we recommit to that goal. Many exciting and wonderful things are happening with our Center. Since we've opened the Pontiac Office in Oakland County, Michigan, we have steadily increased our scope of work. We are involved with a wide variety of projects within Southeastern Michigan and we continue to serve as a resource and catalyst for communities within the United States and around the World. First, I would like to mention the work we are doing in Michigan. We have highlighted three key events in this newsletter but, we are involved with many more significant projects. Beyond the State's School Administrator's Conference, we are working with key leaders to facilitate a fall gathering concerning "Learning Space.", the physical atmosphere in relation to how a child is able learn.

Kingscott and Associates, a major school architectural firm, will sponsor this event. We are engaged in an ongoing project with the Southfield Schools, a large urban system, and their dynamic Superintendent, Beverly Geltner. The Bloomfield Hills Parent Teacher Organization has asked us to facilitate a community engagement initiative.

In the non-profit sector, we are contracting with the Oakland County United Way in conjunction with their attempts to increase their "community impact" efforts. We are also working with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency to increase their effectiveness. We continue to facilitate the Oakland Community Quality Council that serves as a bridge between the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the county.

Our partnership with the University of Michigan Business Department's Center for Positive Organizational Scholarship continues to grow. Together with the University of Iowa, we are submitting a grant proposal to initiate pilot projects in Southeast Michigan and Eastern Iowa. This project will implement "positive tools" within selected schools. This is an exciting project and the outcome of this grant could be valuable for schools and communities. We also continue dialogue with the Community Outreach and Corporate Giving Department of Daimler Chrysler around topics of interest. Opportunities for future projects are presenting themselves at a faster and faster rate.

Timing is everything and we have positioned the Center to be an active player within the current condition of communities. It would be impossible for me to list all the possibilities that are on the horizon but stay tuned as we travel this journey together.

Dominos Delivers the Dialogue

The Civility Center is excited to announce a new partnership with the Dominos Corporation. Currently we are working with Dominos in the development of a dialogue process to be delivered through the local Dominos Stores. This process engages youth in creating the dialouge for change within communities. We project this product will be ready for a few stores beginning this fall. By successfully building this prototype, we will expand this project to reach 8,000 Dominos Stores in the United States and around the world. We will keep you updated on this exciting project.