

## **Toward Community:Unity In Diversity 2004 Year In Review**

By  
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Celebration, Education and Advocacy are three strong pillars of Toward Community. In 2004, we excelled in each of these categories. But first, we lost a member, a co-founder, a mother, a sister and a friend, one that is dedicated to the cause and the promotion of diversity in our community. Jane was gentle but yet with strong resolve. Jane LaChapelle McCarty passed away on March 24 after a courageous battle with cancer. Because of her dedication to diversity and work early on to help form TC, we renamed the TC award after her. The award is now "The Jane LaChapelle McCarty Unity in Diversity Award".

### **Celebration**

We started the year with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Lawrence University Chapel. The event was well attended. Captain Pickney was the keynote speaker and Dr. Bola Delano-Oriaran was awarded the prestigious Unity In Diversity Award. In addition, four students were recognized for their winning essay submissions.

For the first time, an adult MLK essay contest was held and conducted by a Youth Panel at Harmony Café.

In the middle of summer, we held the Annual Diversity Picnic in Neenah/Menasha. This event was attended well. In addition to promoting interaction among members and the diverse members of the community, it was also a day to collect toys for the children of the new Hmong families immigrating to the Fox Valley area. We collected over 1000 toys for distribution to these children. It was a great show of support by the community and demonstrated how welcoming we have become over the years.

Foods of All Nations is one of the three main signature events that Toward Community puts together annually. This year, we brought it out on the main street in Appleton where foods from many of the nations present in the Valley were tasted by all attendees. This event, and for the first time, was done in collaboration with the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center. In addition, several groups provided entertainment including the Taiko Drummers from Japan for the second time in a row.

### **Education**

First we instituted movie nights in 2004. In cooperation with Appleton Public Library and many of the cultural and social organizations in the Valley, movies were shown and followed by discussion sessions that helped to educate the public about the culture being presented or the social issues being addressed.

Members of Toward Community also went to institutions, organizations, etc to give speeches promoting diversity and educating the clients. Some of the speeches/presentations include those giving by Scott Peoples as listed:

- Leadership Fox Cities – Jan. 13
- Wisconsin Afterschool Conference – April 3 in Waukesha
- Kiwanis Club of Appleton-Golden K – April 28
- Project Self Help and Awareness presentation at Harmony Café – May 26
- Harbor House Children's Group -- June 23

And Scott also spoke to American Family Insurance employees during a lunch gathering in December.

### **Advocacy**

Members of Toward Community held a rally in protest of Pete Peters Scriptures for America group in Amherst, WI on Aug. 20. And in October, Henry Golde and Kathy Flores spoke to a group of 120 people in Marshfield, WI. "This presentation was a result of the Holocaust Denier, Christine Miller, who put up a Nazi display at the local library. Also as a result of her constant letters to editor, running for school board and making a disturbance wherever social justice presented itself, a group of justice minded people formed the Marshfield Social Justice Group. This group is now a strong peace and social justice group working on

issues of racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism. The Marshfield Social Justice Group paid to bring Henry and Kathy to town to bring out the truth about the Holocaust and talk about peace building in that community.”