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23rd Annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast

Keep Building Bridges Camps Alive

Help Fund FIVE Camps for this School Year

Rev. James Lawson, Jr. - Civil Rights Leader & Teacher of Nonviolence

CCEJ is thrilled to announce that Reverend James Lawson, Jr. prominent leader of the Civil Rights movement and one of the central architects of the non-violent movement in the United States will bring his message of non-violence and equal rights to CCEJ’s 23rd annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast. On the eve of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, he called Lawson “the leading Civil Rights Leader & Teacher of Nonviolence.”

Please Join Rev. Lawson, Jr. and CCEJ at this year's Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast.

Keep Building Bridges Camps Alive

Help Fund FIVE Camps for this School Year

As we approach the end of 2013, we respectfully ask for your support for our Building Bridges Human Relations Camps. Building Bridges Camps are a transformational experience for high school students. They go up to the mountains as strangers, and even enemies, and return as friends who understand diversity, respect each other, and have communication tools they need to resolve conflicts and improve their schools and neighborhoods.

Each year, we have hundreds of students on the waiting list who are unable to attend Building Bridges due to a lack of funding for the camps. This school year, we have raised funds to provide four camps but we would love to provide six and take 300 kids off those waiting lists!

In prior years, school districts funded this crucial program, but budget cuts have eliminated those funds. Today CCEJ depends 100% on the generosity of individual donors, foundations and corporations to keep this program alive.

To date, this year’s Building Bridges Donors include The Miller Foundation, TABC, Toyota Motor Sales, Toyota Financial Services, Perform Better Plus, the Barbara and Ray Alpert Foundation, Gene and Ann lentzner and support from the Food and Beverage Industry.

We need to raise $50,000 to be able to provide two additional camps in the Spring of 2014. Please help us however you can, whether it is by sending one student to camp for $350 or by funding a full camp at $35,000.

Please help us as we diligently work at Building Bridges and opening minds. You can donate at www.cacej.org/donate or with the enclosed card.
The California Conference for Equality and Justice - Year in Review
Here is What We Were Busy With All Year . . .

Building Bridges© Youth Human Relations Camps
A 3-day residential camp program in which diverse groups of 130-150 students head to the mountains to address human relations issues related to race and culture. Participants develop skills in team-building, conflict resolution, and effective communication. Building Bridges has been shown through professional evaluation to build self-esteem and reduce prejudice, among other outcomes. Put simply, Building Bridges opens minds.

Key Staff:
Kimmy Maniquis, Program Director; Alex Lopez, Program Specialist

Key Funders:
Miller Foundation, TABC/Toyota Motor Sales/Toyota Financial Services
Barbara & Ray Alpert Foundation

Accomplishments:
• Provided four Building Bridges Camps, serving 600 students, teachers, and volunteers.
• Held a Building Bridges Reunion for 50+ former staff and volunteers.
• Updated the volunteer application process and selected an incredible group of volunteers for the 2013-2014 camp season.

How You Can Help:
Donate to the Building Bridges Campaign! Your $350 donation sends one youth to camp.

Youth Human Relations Education
CCEJ provides youth across Southern California with experiential education in human relations, conflict resolution, communication and leadership. These programs build character and enhance leadership and action planning skills.

Key Staff:
Kimmy Maniquis, Program Director; Alex Lopez, Youth Program Specialist

Key Funders:
Bess Hodges Foundation, Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Community Hospital and Beach High School (In-kind donation of space)

Accomplishments:
Provided training to youth from LBUSD, LAUSD, the Long Beach Police Department, Youth Leadership Long Beach, Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and many others.

How You Can Help:
Invite CCEJ to train youth you work with.

Talking in Class© On-Campus Dialogue
Talking in Class brings diverse groups of 30-35 middle or high school students together to spend three full days in face-to-face dialogue about culture, communication and conflict. Students build communication and leadership skills as they develop understanding and relationships with people different from themselves. At the end of each program, participants identify an action plan to promote an inclusive, multicultural school community. Talking in Class has been successfully implemented to address on-campus crises after-the-fact and as a preventative program to improve school climate.

Key Staff:
Kimmy Maniquis, Program Director; Alex Lopez, Program Specialist

Key Funders:
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, Kaiser Permanente and Boeing Employees Community Fund

Accomplishments:
CCEJ held Talking In Class in traditional and alternative high schools all around Los Angeles County including within juvenile justice facilities.

How You Can Help:
Your donation of $125 pays for one student to attend Talking In Class.

Dearest CCEJ supporters,

As we reach the end of this momentous year in CCEJ’s history – our 50th Anniversary of service to the community – we are overwhelmingly thankful to now be able to look forward to our next 50 years of service because of the support of our thousands of donors and volunteers.

CCEJ has a simply stated mission – to eliminate bias, bigotry and racism. The mission is rooted in the principles of our nation - Equality and Justice for all. CCEJ and its team of volunteers, staff and donors are achieving this mission by working to bring our community together, value and respect all voices, promote peace and non-violence and strive to make the practice of our communities live up to the promise of our nation.

Thank you for doing your part to help CCEJ achieve our mission – whether by living CCEJ’s mission in your own life, by mentoring youth as a volunteer at camp, by volunteering on a CCEJ committee, by attending an event, by hiring CCEJ to facilitate trainings at your workplace, or by donating resources that help us run our programs. We sincerely thank you and look forward to another year of working together.

We wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Katherine McIlquham; Amy Mize

Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast
The annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast celebrates religious and cultural diversity. The 2013 program was a tremendous success with speaker Azim Khanamia who shared his message of peace and forgiveness to over 850 people in attendance.

Key Staff:
Katherine McIlquham; Amy Mize

Key Funders:
Gene & Ann Lentzner

Restorative Justice
Restorative Justice in Schools: CCEJ’s Restorative Justice in Schools program is working to improve school climate and stop the school-to-prison pipeline by providing schools with an alternative to punitive disciplinary procedures. Restorative Justice helps schools reduce suspension and expulsion rates and helps faculty, staff and students improve their communication and conflict resolution skills. Restorative Justice focuses on building and repairing relationships and encouraging youth to take accountability for harm and building community.

Restorative Community Conferencing: Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) is a diversion program from the Juvenile Justice system. RCC changes the fundamental way we look at youth crime, asking not “What law was broken?” but rather “Who was harmed?” and “How can we repair that harm?” The program works by (1) requiring youth to take accountability for their actions and repair harms that resulted from their crime; (2) meeting victims’ needs; (3) building community by helping juvenile offenders be fully reintegrated into their communities once they have made amends; and (4) promoting safety by preventing crime and building a safe community.

Community Human Relations Education
CCEJ delivers human relations, diversity, conflict resolution and leadership training in the education, health, law-enforcement, corporate, and government sectors. Participants engage in open and honest dialogue and learn skills and concepts that improve their effectiveness in a multicultural environment. They discover how perceptions, attitudes and behaviors impact the workplace and the community.

CCEJ continues to serve as the facilitator for the Best Start (First 5 LA) program in East Los Angeles, trains corporate clients in leadership and communication styles and facilitates conflict resolution and mediation processes for agencies across Southern California.

How You Can Help:
Hire CCEJ to facilitate diversity or leadership programs.

How You Can Help:
Attend and bring a friend!

How You Can Help:
Hire CCEJ to facilitate diversity or leadership programs.

Katherine McIlquham; Amy Mize