

Cincinnati Human Relations Commission

Cultures &

Communities

Connecting



2007

2nd Quarter Highlights



Cincinnati Human Relations Commission
801 Plum Street, City Hall, Room 158
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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The Cincinnati Human Relations Commission Receives Funding Support From
City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation, Cincinnati Police Department, Community Police Partnering Center,
Procter & Gamble Company, Private Foundations, and Private Donors

CHRC Welcomes New Board



CHRC Board President **Willie Emmanuel Thomas, Jr.**, left a career in business to become the Pastor of Congregational Life Ministries at Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Church, where he still manages a budget and supervises staff. He also currently serves as Board President for Jireh Development Corp., among other activities.



CHRC Board Vice President **George Wharton** is the Director Office of Equal Opportunity at the University of Cincinnati, responsible for coordinating and implementing the University's Affirmative Action plan. Mr. Wharton belongs to several organizations for promoting diversity, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies- Educational Leadership/Systems.



CHRC Board Secretary **Julieta Maria Simms** was born in the Republic of Panama and migrated to the U.S. with her husband in 1968. She earned an Associate and Bachelor degree in Labor Studies. She has served as President of the Hispanic Republican Party and presently serves on the Board of Trustees of Mercy Health Partners Foundation and the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, along with many other organizations.



CHRC Board Treasurer **John E. Harris, Jr.** is the Managing Principal of LifePlan Solutions at MetLife Financial Services, and the Developer and Advance Markets Consultant of the MetLife Clergy Compensation Planning Program. Mr. Harris has also served as business advisor to a number of small businesses and non-profits, and served on several business association boards and church committees



Karen Bankston, Ph.D., has an Associate in Applied Science, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a PhD with a focus on administration and organizational behavior. She now serves as Senior Vice President of Drake Center, Inc., of the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati. She helped found the Center for Closing the Health Gap and the United Way's Oral Health Initiative.



Robert Braggs III is a student at the University of Cincinnati in International Affairs, and works as a valet for Central Parking Services. He has also earned multiple leadership awards, including one from Mayor Luken in 2003, and he has already served on six professional boards.



Semue P. Chapman Sr. is a licensed certified public accountant with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Computer Information Systems. He has in-depth experience working in the fields of government, non-profit organizations, construction, rental housing, and implementing accounting and management systems. He serves on several Boards, and is a member of state and national accounting associations and American Management Associations.



Karen J. Dabdoub, a native Cincinnati and graduate of Ohio University, is currently the Director of the Cincinnati Office of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Ohio Chapter. Formerly she was the Administrator of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati for six years.



Chuck Downton is a retired Naval Captain He has also held several positions for Procter & Gamble in Sales and Human Resources. Mr. Downton has also served on countless boards. He is married with two daughters, one of whom is now a Naval Officer.



Brian R. Frazier, Sr. is a Tax Law Specialist with the Internal Revenue Service. Brian holds a BA/MS in Communications/Sports Organizations and a Juris Doctor. Brian's efforts are to help make a positive change in the community and to provide the disabled community with a voice. Brian's volunteerism extends to various professional and youth organizations as well as serving on other non-profit organizations' boards.



Barbara Gould has combined careers in Fashion, Interior Design, and Music with a commitment to community involvement. The countless list of organizations she has been involved in covers the fields of the Arts, Education, Job Training, Neighborhood, Religion, Health, Shelter, Politics, Civil Liberties, and Human Rights.

John E. Harris, Jr. is the Managing Principal of LifePlan Solutions at MetLife Financial Services, and the Developer and Advance Markets Consultant of the MetLife Clergy Compensation Planning Program. Mr. Harris has also served as business advisor to a number of small businesses and non-profits, and served on several business association boards and church committees.



Robert B. Kenney, Ph.D., has been a Lecturer/Instructor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at nine different colleges and universities. Dr. Kenney has also served as a Minister or Pastor at several colleges and churches. He also has multiple published writings, has been involved in various associations, and has led and participated in continuing education workshops.



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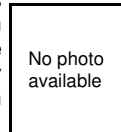
Dwight Kyles has a Bachelor of Science in Economics and is certified in Real Property Administration. He served in the Peace Corps in Cameroon, Africa. He currently works in Property Management and General Services Administration. He has also done community service and volunteer work.



Lisa Tallmadge Meeks has a Masters in Musicology as well as a Juris Doctor. She now practices as a Civil Rights attorney, fighting for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender rights, among many other issues. Lisa is involved in several professional law associations, as well as the MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir.



Martha Cutright Sarra has a Bachelor in Finance and a Juris Doctor degree. She has many years of experience working in corporate counsel, and now serves as Senior Counsel at the Kroger Co. In addition to being in business, she is also highly involved in the community, working for the well being of children and the community in countless associations.



No photo available

Marilyn Shazor is a retired Army Captain and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering. She went back to school for a Master of Business Administration and is now a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources. Currently, she serves as Chief Operations Officer for Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.



Luther G. Smith, Ph.D., is the Assistant Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students at Xavier University. Dr. Smith has many published writings and professional affiliations, and has been involved in countless committees and community organizations.



Louise W. Spiegel graduated from Wellesley College in 1946 and then pursued graduate courses at UC while raising a family with the Hon. S. Arthur Spiegel. She has worked in the Urban Planning field in Cincinnati and New York. Ms. Spiegel's community interests center on applied research, with a strong concentration on the study of governance of urban systems.



Joseph A. Tomain, Esq. has a B.A. in Government & International Studies with a Minor in Anthropology, as well as a Juris Doctor degree. Tomain has experience in teaching, and also as a litigation expert. He now works as a Senior Associate in Litigation at Frost Brown Todd law firm. Tomain has written various published articles, and has been involved in countless organizations.



Charleston C.K. Wang has Bachelors degrees in Economics and in Chemical Engineering, an MBA, and a Juris Doctor degree. Wang has experience in the Environmental and Industrial Health fields, and now practices in his own private law firm. He has also served on several advisory boards for community organizations.



Leonard Ali Williamson is an Intellectual Property Attorney who has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Juris Doctor Degree. He belongs to several Bar Associations and countless other law associations. Mr. Williamson previously worked as a chemist at P&G Industries and belongs to several professional chemistry organizations. He is also an inventor and patentee.



Annual Meeting 2007

CHRC Recognizes Champions for Connecting Cultures and Communities:



Dick and Mary Lu Aft were both founding members of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Advisory Council. Dick worked for the United Way for 40 years, including as CEO, Mary has been involved with Friends of the Public Library and the American National Red Cross.



Herbert R. Brown is currently a Senior Vice President of Western Southern Financial Group. He also serves as a board member of Families FORWARD, Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation, and United Way Foundation, and as President of the Community Police Partnering Center.



Mary and Peter Levin both have a strong personal commitment to "aiding projects without champions." Peter is currently CEO and Chairman of Greystone Investment Management, Co-Chair of Planned Parenthood's Endowment Development, and board member of Project GRAD and the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute. Mary is a founding board member of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center and Community Shares, and a board member of Project GRAD and volunteers in the Parham School Library.

Right: Pat Pope presenting **Dr. Arthur Shriberg** with Merlin Pope, Jr. Award. This award is given in memory of Merlin Pope, who promoted diversity and was a pioneer in diversity training. Dr. Arthur Shriberg, Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at Xavier University, teaches courses in Leadership, Diversity, Interpersonal Skills, Human Resources, and Management Theory.



Right: The Very Rev. **James A. Diamond** receiving the Bishop Herbert Thompson, Jr. Distinguished Humanitarian Award. He serves as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, and has formed the Committee for Reconciliation Ministries, the Institute on Justice and Reconciliation, and the Cathedral Racial Reconciliation Initiative.



Summer Youth Employment Program

This summer, 16 youth were recruited and employed during the months of June through August. One group of youth is funded by Procter & Gamble, the other by Community Action Agency. Both groups come together every Friday in a five-hour-long educational session, in which they've discussed issues in the community such as violence, and have done activities such as research and group presentations. After two weeks of orientation in June, which taught them about customer service skills and professionalism, they were sent out on the streets of downtown to take surveys from a diverse array of people about their opinions on issues in the community. The survey questions covered such topics as: people's knowledge of the Human Relations Commission and what they think it should do for the community; police-citizen relations; and curfew laws. The results of the survey are being compiled, and will be presented to various representatives of the city, as well as other community organizations. This information will then be applied to CHRC and City programs, to address the issues for which members of the community have expressed a need.

Featured Youth: Kia Achoe

Kia (Haze) Achoe, who began the summer program as a replacement several weeks in, has caught on extremely quickly to the qualities being taught in the project-based learning program. She always comes in with a positive attitude and willing to participate. And when CHRC staff referred the youth to a job interview at the SuperJobs Center, she was the only one who attended. She was hired, and started August 1st as a Product Demonstrator at a Meijer store location making \$8.50 per hour. The CHRC staff is happy to have worked with Kia, and wish her the best in the future.



Jeanette Jones gives a presentation to the group.



The group meets on a Saturday to go to the Freedom Fest at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

CHRC Welcomes Seasongood Foundation Intern

Anna Rahtz, a native of the West side of Cincinnati, recently graduated with a B.S. in Architecture from Kent State University. She is employed by the Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation, which sends interns to various departments in the City of Cincinnati each summer to learn the workings of local government. Anna will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the fall to start in the Masters in Community Planning program. She hopes to work in the public sector in the field of urban planning.



Project Based Learning:

The learning objectives of the program are: 1) how to work with others as a team, as demonstrated by the completion of a project; 2) the value of community service; 3) better communication skills demonstrated through verbal and written assignments, presentations, exercises; and presentation of final project; 4) the skills and qualities needed to become a good leader as they describe what a leader is in their PowerPoint project; 5) skills and qualities necessary for good customer service.

Anna serves as the Project Advisor for the Summer Youth Employment Program, along with other projects in the CHRC office. When asked about her experience with the Youth Program this summer, Anna said "I've really enjoyed working with the youth. I think this program has been really effective at giving them some more confidence by pushing their limits a little. None of them liked speaking in front of people before, and now they've given presentations and learned how to administer surveys in a professional manner, and they've really stepped up. And I've learned a lot from them, too."

CHRC Works for "Unity in the Community"

On June 14th and July 12th, 2007, the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission held UNITY in the Community Meetings to discuss the continuing issues raised by the Neo-Nazi attempt to march in the streets of Over-the-Rhine. The focus of the group is to expand understanding of the reasons hate groups target the Cincinnati neighborhood, and then to gather input towards developing contingency plans for a well-prepared and broad-based community response, should another hate march be attempted. UNITY in the Community provides an opportunity for citizens to brainstorm new ways to bridge communities and to improve cooperation between citizens and city agencies. For more information or to get involved, call Cheryl Meadows or Vanetta Kyle at 513/352-2461.

(Source: <http://www.wangnews.net/>)



Unity in the Community meeting June 14th, 2007

CeaseFire Cincinnati Fights to Stop the Violence



With shootings being a commonplace occurrence in Cincinnati, especially in areas such as Avondale, more and more citizens are beginning to take a stand against the violence. One group inciting such community action is CeaseFire Cincinnati, which goes to the exact location of any shooting within 48 to 72 hours, leading street marches and protests.

Youth Streetworker Robert Akikta In September 2006, CHRC's Youth Street Worker Program expanded to Avondale through a contract with Cincinnati Police Partnering Center. Street Workers go out on the streets at all hours of the day and night to approach those who are at risk of gun violence, or who have previous involvement with it, and connect them with the services and resources they need. CeaseFire hopes to obtain enough funding to expand the program further in Avondale, as well as in Walnut Hills.

A Success Story of the Youth Streetworker Program



Antwon Denson, age 19, says that the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission helped him to get his life together. From the age of 14, he was always getting himself into trouble. Finally, at 18 he ended up in Queensgate Correctional Facility, where he met CHRC's Stan Ross. Mr. Ross gave Antwon his card in case he needed anything, which he soon did. After being released from Queensgate, he started getting back into trouble and got kicked out of his aunt's house. He called Mr. Ross, who helped him find a place to stay and got him to go back to school. He attended the Life Skills Center, where he learned how to work with computers.

Now, he's leaving to go to the Atterbury Job Corps Center in Edinburg, Indiana, a placement that CHRC's Robert Akikta helped him with. Antwon hopes to go to school in California to become a chef, and then someday come back to Cincinnati and open a soul food restaurant.

Antwon remarked that the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission is a good place to come when you need help, and that if more people took advantage of their programs, they could get their lives together. He said that when he first met Stan Ross, he told him to keep in contact and everything would be all right. He did, "and now everything is all right."

"Why Mediation?"

As CHRC's mission is to foster better relationships between diverse groups, conflict mediation is a major part of the job. CHRC's staff includes several certified mediators.

According to Partners In Mediation, Inc.:

-Mediation gives people involved in conflict the opportunity to resolve their dispute in a confidential setting. Those involved decide whether and how to solve the problems.

-The role of the mediator is to help those in conflict: 1) focus on the issues in a positive way; 2) discover what their mutual interests are; and 3) find a resolution that is acceptable to all parties

-When compared to the alternative of litigation, mediation is consistently more convenient, faster, and provides the disputants more control over the outcome and over their future relationship with the other party. When compared to the option of no resolution at all, mediation provides the parties the opportunity to clear the air, move forward in a positive way, create better and stronger relationships, and eliminate the stress of the unresolved conflict.

-Mediation is a process that is creative, cooperative, and constructive.

CHRC Participates in Empowerment Zone Activities

CHRC continues its partnership with the Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation. CEC was incorporated in 1998 as a nonprofit entity to manage the federally funded Empowerment Zone Grant. CEC brings together government, businesses, community organizations, and residents to assess the development needs of nine neighborhoods called the Empowerment Zone: Avondale, Coryville, Clifton Heights/ University Heights/ Fairview Heights, Evanson, Mt. Auburn, Over-the-Rhine, Queensgate, Walnut Hills, and the West End.



Through the contract with CEC, the Human Relations Commission engages Community Relations Monitors and Youth Outreach Street Workers to patrol the streets of the nine "Zone" neighborhoods. The CRMs and Street Workers reach out to residents in the communities and connect them to opportunities for employment, training, and education. At the same time, they are working to decrease curfew violations and reduce loitering on the streets of the "Zone" neighborhoods. They also organize, promote, and participate in community events. This partnership is working to bring a more positive atmosphere and a message of hope to Cincinnati's neighborhoods.



2007 Upcoming Events

- September 8th, noon-11:00 pm: Hispanic Fest 2007, Hamilton County Fairgrounds (at E. 77th Street and Vine Street in Carthage)
- September 15th, 8:30 am-noon: Child Safety Summit, Jordan Crossing Center, 1740 Langdon Farm Road. Guest Speaker Dr. Victor Garcia, Director of Trauma Services at Children's Hospital and co-chair of the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence.
- September 19th, Gentlemen of Style and Substance Event (for info see <http://citymatters.rcc.org>)
- September 20th: Open House at Super Jobs Center, in recognition of Work Force Services Month
- September 21st, 4 pm-8 pm: Free Friday at Cincinnati Museum Center
- September 29th: Walk to Stop AIDS (registration 8 am, 5 mi walk starts 9 am)
- October- National Disability Awareness Month
- October 18th, 11:30 am-2:00 pm: CHRC Disability Awareness Day: "Live a Day in Our Shoes", Fountain Square
- October: CHRC Human Relations Summit (Date to be announced).