



TEENS CREATING DIALOGUE AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Hassenfeld Family Foundation, Amica Insurance, Bank of America, Ocean State Charities Trust, Johnson & Wales University and individual donors, a successful Project RESPECT Youth Leadership Camp was held June 26th thru July 1st at Camp Davis in Charlestown, RI. 35 youth (14 to 19 years old) came together to address issues of race, power, privilege, sexuality, leadership and diversity in a unique format. As Gertura Gbarbo, a 15 year old sophomore from South High Community School and immigrant from Liberia said "we compared things that were happening to our real lives. I am a shy person; I don't really express myself and after attending the program, I have been able to express myself more."

"The Delegates, as they are called, are a testament to the power of leadership, exploring differences and commonalities that exist and respecting and valuing each other for who they are as individuals, in this week-long camp" says Assistant Director for Programs Nanda Shewmangal.

Shewmangal along with expert facilitators Rob Jones, Rich Tarlian, Aimee Bel, and April Samuels led the week long journey of the challenges and rewards of building and leading this community of people.

Members from RICJ Youth Action Council served as peer counselors to the delegates, facilitating interactive exercises, workshops and creative events. "Culture Night" and "Gender Night" are highlights of what delegates describe as life-changing experiences, staples of the summer leadership camp.

The Delegates left the camp with new skills, knowledge, fond memories and lasting impressions. The bond that was created between the delegates will last for years to come.

COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AWARDS HONOR NATIVE SONS

For fifty-five years, the Community & Justice Award has paid tribute to community leaders for their contributions to creating a state that values all its members.



This year RICJ honors Rhode Island native sons *Steven J. Issa*, President & CEO of *Sovereign Bank Rhode Island* and *Keith W. Stokes*, Executive Director of the *Newport County Chamber of Commerce* at an award ceremony on **October 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island Convention Center.**

RICJ's signature event, our main fundraiser, is a cocktail reception and buffet with food from around the world, nestled under banners portraying the Seven Continents.

A role model for our youth as a *Community College of Rhode Island* graduate who has achieved extraordinary success, Mr. Issa also "gives back" to his community. He joins our list of exemplary awardees for his outstanding commitment and service to making education and opportunity widely available to young people across our state.

Outspoken on the immigration issue and a noted historian of the lives of African-Americans in colonial times, and our state's founding in religious tolerance, Mr. Stokes is being honored for his efforts as an ambassador for the basic human principle of acceptance and respect for all, no matter where they are from.

"We are thrilled to pay tribute to these two 'Entrepreneurs making a difference' who embody RICJ's mission of creating a more fair and inclusive world", says Executive Director, Dr. Toby Ayers.

Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.

Eleanor Roosevelt

RICJ Youth Leadership Camp Delegates and staff, wearing T-shirts designed by Youth Action Council member Michael Fonseca.

RICJ IS ON THE MOVE TO NEW OFFICE

If you are wandering through the second floor of the Shepherd Building looking for RICJ staff, you will not find us there!

Rhode Island for Community & Justice has moved its office to the fourth floor of the University of Rhode Island, Providence Feinstein Campus Shepherd Building, room 436.

With RICJ's expansion in staff, programs and interns, the move is long overdue.

Thanks to the generosity of RICJ board president, and URI-Feinstein campus Vice Provost *Dr. John McCray*, RICJ now resides in a portion of the space previously occupied by the MET School.


The spacious office suite on the fourth floor includes a view onto Westminster Street and the Johnson & Wales University's campus green.

While the views are an added bonus it's the extra storage space and computer stations that are really exciting for the staff.

Project RESPECT Youth Action Council members will have access to computers for projects, resume development and searching for employment and educational opportunities.

An Open House is in the works for early Fall to welcome RICJ Board of Directors, RICJ Advisors, Friends and Feinstein campus neighbors to our new space.

Save the Date



RICJ
Rhode Island
for Community
& Justice
Building understanding
Together.

2008 Community & Justice Awards Gala
Annual Fundraiser for RICJ
Thursday, October 16, 2008
5:30 p.m.
RI Convention Center

Honoring:

Steven J. Issa
President and CEO
Sovereign Bank Rhode Island

Keith W. Stokes
Executive Director
Newport County Chamber of Commerce

Honorary Co-Chairs: Howard Sutton and Robert DiMuccio

For more information, contact Ann Clanton at 401-667-1717, ext. 101, or email: aclanton@etal.uri.edu

Thank You to Our Project Respect Leadership Camp Sponsors



THE HASSENFELD FOUNDATION

Ocean State Charities Trust



Individual Scholarship Donors: An Anonymous full scholarship donor, James Carr, Charlotte Penn, Barbara Leonard, Aram Garabedian of Bliss Properties, and Ted Almon of Claflin Corp.



*Drumming Workshop:
Jim, Jovahni and Tarik practice for Culture Night*



RICJ Advisor and former NCCJ-RI executive director Charlotte Penn visits with dedicated camp staff Rich Tarlian and Rob Jones



*Featured in Providence Journal article
Photo courtesy of Providence Journal July 1, 2008
Frieda Squires, photographer*



*Singing is a part of camp life.
Chantel, Marangely, Camblin and Miles
conduct a 'community sing'.*

YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL MEETS

EVERY 1ST AND 3RD

MONDAY OF THE MONTH

"Y.A.C. ON THE GO"

TAKE TIME TO WELCOME HOME PROJECT RESPECT ALUM

In August the YAC (Youth Action Council) sampled the region's diversity by attending a Narragansett Indian Pow-Wow Celebration, an Italian Festival and a South East Asian Water Festival. They also took French lessons from fellow Council member, Rose Albert. Six YAC members are also participating with representatives from law enforcement, the court system and community, as members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

Project RESPECT also welcomed its own, former Project RESPECT (Delegate'96) *Dean Korsack* for a book signing held at the URI—Shepherd building on the 21st of August. **"OPSIMATH - A Journey Toward Justice"** written by the Rhode Island native, weaves his unique and dramatic life story with questions and suggestions for individuals trying to understand justice. Once a former high school drop out and homeless, *Korsack* went on to earn undergraduate and law degrees with honors, and credits RICJ's Leadership camp as a major part of his life change leading to success. The Project Respect Alum is a member of the Mississippi and District of Columbia Bar Associations and resides with his wife, Alison and son Jay in Mississippi where he practices law. To order a copy of the unedited version you can go to <http://www.dandak.com/> and click on *OPSIMATH*.

ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE IN THE COMMUNITY

CIVIL RIGHTS ROUNDTABLE MARKS TENTH YEAR WITH "ADVANCE"

Reflecting on a decade of advocating against discrimination, the Civil Rights Roundtable is holding a mini retreat *Friday, September 26, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.*

Co-founded and facilitated by RICJ, the Civil Rights Roundtable vitality and inclusiveness are the driving force for a fall retreat.

The legislative agenda and the stance of Rhode Island's Congressional delegation on civil rights issues and human rights in general is also on the minds of Roundtable members.

A *Congressional Candidates Forum* is planned for *September 20* at the *Community College of Rhode Island-Knight Campus' Bobby Hacket Theater* In Warwick. As in previous years we expect all the Congressional Candidates to make an appearance.

RICJ GARNERS SEAT ON IMMIGRATION PANEL

RICJ Executive Director Dr. Toby Ayers, was appointed to a panel monitoring implementation of Governor Carcieri's executive order on illegal immigration.

Following a Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents' sweep of six RI court-houses, the 27 member panel is under public and media scrutiny. Some members resigned following the incident. RICJ is remaining because there are signs the panel is expanding its mission and role.

After requests from RICJ and other community members, the panel met to revise and strengthen its role. It plans to meet with ICE representatives next, and has established a new "listening team" to hold public forums for community input.

Rhode Island For Community & Justice

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**"Be the change
you'd like to see in the world!"**

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP MEETS WITH YOUTH



Advisory Group members in paired discussions of issues of disparities in juvenile justice.



A RI Justice Commission grant has allowed RICJ to bring aboard law school students *Ken Amoriggi* and *Delcie Palmer*. A third year **Roger Williams University School of Law** student, Ken is assisting the Juvenile Justice Project and Civil Rights Roundtable with the production of a self assessment survey and the Law Enforcement complaint/ commendation brochure. Ken says "working with the women of RICJ, has been enlightening".

Second year **Southern New England School of Law** student "De" is coordinating our new Juvenile Justice Advisory group comprised of youth, community, law enforcement and court representatives. The advisory group is coming together in response to Department of Justice research findings that demonstrate that minority youth are over represented in the court and penal systems in Rhode Island.

The law interns also created informational brochures for youth that will be used to educate the public on how to respond if stopped by a police officer.

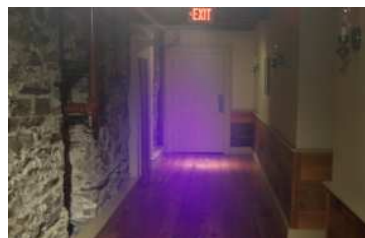
The interns also planned orientation meetings for the advisory group in the summer and fall.

In August the advisory group is hearing from youth groups like *PrYSM*, *Young Voices*, the *Institute for Non-Violence's Street-Workers* and RICJ's *Youth Action Council*.

In September, the group meets with researcher *Dorinda Ricotelli* of *Spectrum Associates*, to learn statistics on RI youth's experience with the justice system.



Intern Ken and RICJ staff at the DeWolf Tavern



Join RICJ for a Remembrance screening of

"World Trade Center" A documentary film by Oliver Stone September 11th

RI Convention Center (Ground Floor)

Limited tickets available (free). Please call for reservations

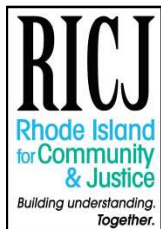


AN INTERNSHIP COINCIDENCE

When intern *Ken Amoriggi* isn't studying law or addressing civil rights issues, he's waiting tables at the **DeWolf Tavern** in Bristol. The building was a receiving station for "merchandise" of the DeWolf family, as highlighted in the "Traces" Documentary. In the colonial era, this stone warehouse built of African granite was a holding area for slaves and also used as a rum distillery.

RICJ is a Rhode Island partner of DeWolf descendent and filmmaker *Katrina Browne's* "Traces of the Trade" community dialogue project intended to educate Rhode Islanders about the true history of our state and its contemporary legacy.

Recently, RICJ staff joined Ken for dinner and a tour of the restaurant. Legend has it that ghost roam the restaurant. We took a photo — *does it show the ghost?*



Rhode Island for Community & Justice
80 Washington Street, Room 436
Providence, RI 02903-1803

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 21:** Book signing "OPSIMATH - A Journey Toward Justice", Author, Dean Korsack, 4p.m.
University of Rhode Island – Providence Campus, 80 Washington Street
- Sept 11:** RI Wall of Hope. Remembrance Showing of "World Trade Center" Movie
- Sept. 26:** Civil Rights Roundtable Retreat
- Oct 6:** Civil Rights Roundtable Congressional Candidates Forum, CCRI Knight Campus, Warwick
- Oct 16:** RICJ **Community & Justice Awards** Fundraiser, 5:30 p.m. RI Convention Center-Sabin Street,
Providence. Tickets are \$100
- Nov. 1:** Recruitment begins for the *Leadership For a Future Class of 2009*. Please send us candidates!

Join us at our October Awards Fundraiser! THANK YOU to our Honorary Host Committee for the event:

Honorary Host Committee Co-Chairs: Robert DiMuccio and Howard Sutton

The Honorable Jack Reed / The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse / The Honorable Patrick Kennedy /

The Honorable James Langevin / The Honorable Bruce Sundlun / The Honorable M. Teresa Pavia-Weed /

Theresa Guzman Stokes / Sr. Therese Antone / Dr. John Bowen / Katrina Browne / Dr. James Campbell / Tosca Carpenter /

Elizabeth Delude-Dix / Dr. Ray DiPasquale / John Gregory / William Hatfield / Juana Horton / Tony Maione /

Cliff Montiero / Joseph Nagle / James Purcell / Steve Sitirin / Lauren Slocum / Laurie White / Jim and Marilyn Winoker

HELP RICJ CONTINUE OUR WORK!

Reflection by Harry Stewart, Youth Action Council member:

What makes man a man, is it the pep on his step, or the things that he owns, or should I say the things he neglects, at times. I look back, yes even I can reflect, and I put my head down, in shame and regret, I've done many wrongs, I've lost many bets and up to this day, I feel as if I haven't won yet, at times I forget even though I've lost that I'm not done yet. I thrive to find a place I belong, lift my head up high, be man and be strong, I know the journey is hard, and the path seems so long, but I will suffer its trials, and put an end to my wrongs, there comes a time in our lives when we have to do right, and only then is the time when we should fight, what makes a man a man, is it the size of his heart, or the place that he ends, or should I say the place where he starts.

To volunteer or participate in RICJ activities, please contact 401.467.1717 Ext. 101

RICJ is #6268 on your United Way Pledge Sheet

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