

Eraser the Hate Leaders Luncheon Participant Question / Comment Cards

How to stay sustainable?

- Youth may be the key – we may need to support them, follow them
- Create web programming for the country and world using our excellent people in Toledo as a resource for education and a model for healthy Muslim-Israeli-Christian relations; can use various formats, e. g., panels – people can post questions in advance; watch a diverse group work through an issue & model how to do it.
- The goal to increase involvement of youth -> and increase education and programming options

If EtH disappeared, would it make a difference?

- I've perceived it as a 'Buck stops Here' presence in the community – know that a response will occur due to the presence of the committee

Ideas

- Develop a network of Metro Area High Schools. Its members would be student leaders; they would become a Metro High Schools organization dedicated to Erase Hate in and among High School communities. Suburban, outer city & inner city --- TPS & faith based high schools. Suburban & city schools would convene together in conferences.
- Has been done somewhere before [Toledo? WA State?] Keep track of attack ads, negative campaigning by each candidate and publish results regularly and/or ask candidates to sign a no negative ads campaign pledge
- You did mention youth. What about young adults, ages 18 – 25. Always hear about young adults committing hate/violence acts on each other ...
- International Students at UT may be a resource – too old for youth council – can learn from them about their culture, learn how they perceive Americans – what differences they see in how we live with people of different races, faiths, etc.

Groups that should be at the table

- Promedica / Mercy System HCR Manorcare –should be at org table, given their mission to community to serve sick, elderly, infirm
- Service organizations like Rotary should be involved, given their mission to address world peace which starts here
- School community service leaders
- America's Pride

Questions

- I applaud what has been done and realize that there is much left to do.
 - Are there any corporate sponsors? [[we have had a few](#)]
 - Can you ask the various media outlets to put a representative on your board or at least serve on a PR sub-committee [[It is difficult to get media to respond to us. We don't fit the 'if it bleeds, you read model.'](#) David Yonke, religion editor of The Blade has given us good coverage. We had quite a lot of media coverage of this event and in response to our theme of respect and civil public discourse.]
 - UT is noticeably missing from the list of sponsors. Why? [[There have been many changes at UT. A new UT rep has been offered since this luncheon.](#)]

- If Toledo is named a Compassionate Community, in what ways will EtH continue to address hate in the community? [The Compassionate Community Campaign has two strands – 1) to raise up and celebrate stories / heroes of compassion and 2) to set goals, choosing a few to work on annually, to apply compassion to critical community issues]
- What outcomes does EtH have in order to assess its impact on the community? [It is extremely difficult to measure success/impact of a mission that is primarily to change attitudes. About the only realistic way are anecdotal – collect stories of positive change. Statistics of hate crimes, hate groups in Toledo are low. Can we prove that EtH or its member orgs have made that so? Probably not, though we'd like to think we have had some effect. There are subtler forms of hate that do exist in our community. We have not 'gone out of business'. But we do have good communication lines. For example, Wendy Goldstein mentioned at our retreat that if she hears of trouble between the Jewish and Islamic communities, she can pick up the phone and speak directly with Imam Farooq. How many communities around the world can say that?]
- As far as youth events, what have you learned from the poor attendance of youth at your events? [It is not the attendance of the youth that is the issue; it is the attendance of adults at our youth events. The absence of adults gives the impression that they do not care. Youth are not our future – what we always hear – they are our present! From our initial event to start the youth council, we have learned that bullying is their biggest concern. We adults really need to pay attention to that issue. It is not just 'kids will be kids'. Bullying, and in particular cyber-bullying, is so immediate, so public, and so devastating to kids just forming their self-image. It is a life or death issue. At our youth festival in March, a young woman did a rap about 'how sticks and stones may break her bones but words DO hurt'. The other youth went up to her afterwards in support.] What are you doing to connect with and draw more youth to your events? [We are starting a youth council. We are hiring an intern/mentor to liaison between the full council and the youth. We want to encourage them to develop their own kind of program. It may take advantage of some new technologies. We have a few youth committed so far. If you have a committed youth to suggest please contact me info@erasethehatetoledo.org.]
- How do we get our international youth exchange guests involved, so that they can return to their countries to make a difference globally? [Perhaps, after we get the youth council going, we could arrange a gathering with them?]
- We are finding in our work it is not proclamations or leader statements that drive success, but rather authentic community engagement drives real change. How are you involving "real" neighborhood people? How are you turning outward? [Juanita: At the time of the neo-Nazi proposed march in North Toledo, we held a neighborhood safe space at the Zablocki Center. No, it did not stop the riot from happening. But it did provide an alternative for many people. After the riot, one of our member orgs and some of the EtH leadership held meetings with the youth and helped effect restorative justice.]
- If my organization is holding an event that fosters compassion, how might we partner with Erase the hate to help people be aware of the event? [EtH helps market and publicize member organization events. So, join us! You may also participate

directly in the Compassionate Community campaign – learn how at <http://compassionatetoledo.org/index.html>]

- Where is the Disability Community? [Judy: That question is close to my heart. My sister, who passed away recently, was disabled all of her life. So I have been very close to the challenges of the disabled. We would certainly welcome a group with a mission towards eliminating discrimination towards the disabled to our group. Please see our website membership section to see how to join. <http://erasethehatetoledo.org/membership.html>]
- We need an official Toledo proclamation! When? Where? [If you mean regarding the Compassionate Community, we already have a letter from the mayor. The official designation will take some time. We need to broadly publicize. We are currently gathering sponsors. To do this authentically, it needs to be a very broad-based event – not just a political show. It is our goal to eventually have a large celebration – perhaps next spring. It may take longer.]
- Why did the taste of diversity discontinue? [Juanita: The BCR, which sponsored Taste of Diversity, held the celebration in various locations and in the month of September. The event evolved and grew. The new leadership of the BCR may well consider holding Taste of Diversity again. It may evolve further. That will be up to the new leadership and the Board.]

Pledges to Support

- The YWCA is excited to be at the table & the revival of E the H. Through our work w/ eliminating racism “our mission” & the “Stand Against Racism” event, we look forward to partnering & joining in E the H efforts. Thank you, Shelly Ulrich
- Corpus Christi University Parish will remain a sponsoring organization with a commitment to remain, or become again, involved. Carol Falquette [contact info]
- Judy - Wonderful presentation & program. Promedica would like to be a sponsor. I need an invoice [sent] Many thanks – Jewell
- This has been a fantastic program that has motivated me to rededicate myself to help EtH fulfill its self-stated goal! Excellent!