

# NATIONAL CIVILITY CENTER UPDATE

October 2003

## Demonstration Community

With the acceptance and success of the ideas presented by the Civility Center, we would like to demonstrate their effectiveness. The National Civility Center is seeking to enlist a community that would be willing to invest and align its efforts with the ideas and suggestions of the Center. The Civility Center is willing to invest and provide resources to meet the shared goal. Many communities across the country have and continue to make positive differences in the lives of the people they serve but it is rare to find the comprehensiveness promoted by the Civility Center. By demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach, we will bring even more attention to the concepts we suggest.

Presently the Center adds to the field of community improvement by:

- Connecting people, organizations and communities in the field of comprehensive community building (using civil dialogue)
- Host convening's to gather ideas and share information
- Create materials promoting our beliefs through our website, updates, and books
- Coach and Present to communities upon request
- Promote a unique approach to private sector investment within communities

We would like to add:

- A product that would demonstrate our beliefs within the community setting
- This product would produce a blueprint for other communities interested in investing in our process

We seek an urban community; however we are open to any ideas. In a perfect scenario, we would like to work in a region that has urban, near-urban and rural settings. Any interested community that would like to further this conversation should call our Center (563) 263-2891.

## Director's Thoughts

This fall we began the fourth year of our Center. As we continue to evolve, it is important to remember the beginnings of our effort. We were not sure there was a place for our voice in the relative young field of community building. We are thrilled with our progress and excited about the future.

The basics of our revamped website [www.civilitycenter.org](http://www.civilitycenter.org) is completed. We still have editing and further material to add. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Requests for our new book *Community Weaving* continues to grow. Currently communities and individuals wanting to receive the book can do so by contacting our Center (563) 263-2891. Depending on the request, the cost is very minimal.

Even though we just released the new book, we have begun our third. The working title is *A Blueprint for Community Success*. Marty Carver and Jay Newman are helping me with this venture. Our goal is to produce a book that goes deeper in the "how" to implement a process for community improvement.

***Stay tuned for the progress of this ambitious project!***

## Helping Communities

News from communities that are working closely with the Civility Center.

- 1) St. Joseph County: The visit by Vaughn Grisham from the McLean Institute was a resounding success. Dr. Grisham's message concerning the innovations of Tupelo, MS and other communities were well received. Contact Jay Newman (800) 467-5420 for further information about Vaughn's visit.
- 2) Muscatine, Iowa: In August Dr. John Kretzman of the Asset Development Institute of Northwestern University worked with four neighborhood groups. Kas Kelly, Director of the Safe Street Program, helped in facilitating this interesting and productive presentation. Each neighborhood group decided upon a project to complete before Dr. Kretzman returns later this fall. Stay tuned for further info.
- 3) West Des Moines, IA: The Community Schools Director Linda Sanda is working with Louann Riley (Denver, CO) on a grant to be submitted to the Carver Trust. The grant is based on the concept of Restorative Justice and the core competencies of Peter Senge's Five Disciplines. The success of this effort can be evaluated and used in other communities.
- 4) Oakland County, MI: Kent Roberts, Director Civility Center is spending five full days presenting in Oakland County. Kent has also been invited to keynote their United Way Success Campaign later next month. Kent will be working with key groups in Leadership Development, Courts, Schools, Faith Community, Agencies and other Government and Community Leaders.
- 5) Green County, WI: They will be hosting a major community development workshop based on many of the principles of the Civility Center. The ongoing efforts of this progressive county deserve attention.

## 2003 Board of Directors Meeting

The National Civility Center has announced the dates of its annual Fall Board of Directors Meeting. The meeting will be held in Muscatine, Iowa November 7th and 8th. The Center is always looking for new members to join our Board of Directors. Any interested individual should contact us at (563) 263-2891.

## Office Move

The Civility Center is now located at the corner of Mississippi Drive and Iowa Avenue, in the old Hotel Muscatine. Our mailing address will remain the same: PO Box 497, Muscatine, IA. 52761. All our phone numbers and email addresses also remain the same.